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I. WASH IT! theory of change

Summary

WASH IT! is a strategic partnership between the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (in particular the IGG department, DSO and relevant embassies) and IRC, Simavi, Wetlands International and Akvo.

Over the next five years, WASH IT! Strategic Partnership will deliver improvements in the governance and management of water, sanitation and hygiene services as well as of the water resources on which they draw (and to which they return), something we refer to throughout the rest of this document as WASH services¹. We will do this at the international level and in Kenya, Uganda and four additional countries by strengthening the capacity of national civil society to lobby government and other WASH duty bearers. This will lead to measurable improvements in the quality and sustainability of WASH services in these countries.

WASH IT! will focus its interventions most intensively in Uganda and Kenya, where a full range of interventions from local to national scale will be undertaken. In Mali, Ghana, Bangladesh and India, a more limited set of context-specific and strategic interventions will be undertaken.

Through a series of interventions, from district to national level, we will ensure that evidence, knowledge and lessons from district-scale interventions in target countries are translated upwards to influence governance and policy at national, regional and international levels. Change in policy and practice will be achieved by evidence-based lobbying and advocacy by WASH IT! partner organisations and civil society organisations (CSOs) in the target countries (Figure 1).

Recognising that national civil society capacity to engage in these issues is limited, WASH IT!, through its local partners, will invest in strengthening the capacity of CSOs to engage and participate in dialogue and dissent about governance and policy. To this end, the partnership will assess, develop and implement a suite of tools and approaches for building CSO capacity for evidence-based lobbying and advocacy.

Sustainability of WASH services is the ultimate goal of WASH IT! Where water insecurity threatens or coincides with weak WASH services, the partnership will seek to connect all water users and stakeholders—central and local governments, the media, the private sector, research and academic institutions, utilities, CSOs and networks—in dialogue around good water resource management and WASH service delivery. The role of ecosystems in safeguarding the availability of raw water and cleansing used water will be emphasised.

Outside the focus countries, WASH IT! will advocate in the Netherlands and in regional and international arenas for the role of civil society in WASH governance. It will support select policy objectives that connect to the country-level issues identified in the first year of the partnership and in subsequent assessments.

Furthermore, we aspire to expand our reach by engaging donors, investors and new partners in additional countries.

¹ WASH services refers to the continued, sustainable provision of water, sanitation and hygiene services that meet national norms and standards. Moving the sector from a focus on providing only WASH infrastructure to providing WASH services is a key component of our lobbying work.

The WASH IT! partners are well aware that driving change in the policy and practice of WASH governance is a long-term, decadal process. In entering into the partnership with DGIS, we are also committing ourselves to continuing the work beyond the current five years of DGIS funding—that is, with or without future DGIS financing.

A genuine partnership with DGIS (in The Hague and in embassies in focus countries) is essential. It should draw on the convening power of DGIS and the analytic power of the partners. Most importantly, it should influence the entirety of DGIS WASH and water resources programming. By corollary, DGIS investments, particularly in WASH IT! focus countries, that undermine the role of civil society will hinder WASH IT! activities.

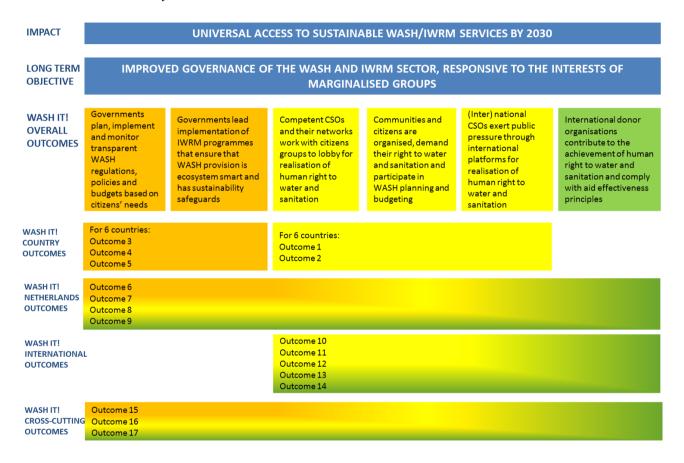


Figure 1 Summary WASH IT! theory of change

Background and context analysis

The human right to drinking water and sanitation is far from universally achieved. According to the most recent Joint Monitoring Programme report², 663 million people lack access to an improved water source, 946 million practice open defecation, 2.4 billion do not have access to improved sanitation, and several billion do not have soap and water to wash their hands. Every year 35 million people die prematurely from water-related diseases. Moreover, an estimated one-third of hand pumps in Africa are non-functional, latrines are not regularly emptied, and faecal sludge and wastewater are dumped into open watercourses.

Sustainability is further endangered by the rising demand for water from energy, agriculture and industry. It is estimated that 'by 2030, 47 percent of the world's population will be living in areas of high water stress³.' The result is degradation of the water and other natural resources on which many marginalised communities depend.

IRC, Simavi, Wetlands International and Akvo recognise that sustainable WASH service delivery and of improved water resources management. We believe that universal access to indefinite WASH services requires improved governance.

Our Theory of Change focuses on improving governance for sustainable WASH and IWRM based on the human right to water and sanitation.

WASH IT! aims to address the following main problems:

The unserved are increasingly concentrated in certain regions and countries. More than three-quarters of those without access to water or sanitation live in sub-Saharan Africa, southern Asia and eastern Asia. Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa alone account for 839 million of those who practise open defecation⁴. Rural households account for 80 percent of those who lack access to improved drinking water and 70 percent of those who live without improved sanitation. Despite some progress, gender inequality persists, and women remain more likely to engage in vulnerable work, marry before the age of 18 and face the brunt of the burden of lack of access to safe and sustainable water and sanitation⁵.

Inadequate financing and accountability in the context of decentralised services. Current WASH finance is largely concentrated in urban areas. Financial frameworks for the sector are often poorly developed, and inequality in WASH services has not decreased since the 1990s⁶. Residents of slums and illegal and informal settlements typically lack access to basic public services and face a poorer quality and quantity of WASH services than residents in formal settlements. Whereas the poorest often rely on drinking water from pay-as-you-go-services and public water points, higher-income households in urban areas typically have access to piped drinking water or other improved sources. Financial accountability to customers is poor, with data non-existent and/or not accessible⁷. A gap remains between functional decentralisation

² World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, 2015. Progress on sanitation and drinking water - 2015 update and MDG Assessment. Geneva: World Health Organization and UNICEF.

³⁾United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), UN-Water, 2012 United Nations World Water Development Report 4. Volume 1: Managing Water under Uncertainty and Risk: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
4 Ibid.

⁵ UN, 2014. The Millennium Development Goals Report [pdf.] New York: United Nations.

⁷ World Health Organization (WHO) and UN-Water, 2014a. UN-Water global analysis and assessment of sanitation and drinking-water (GLAAS) 2014 – report. Investing in water and sanitation: increasing access, reducing inequalities.

and fiscal decentralisation in the WASH sector, and disbursements of allocated funds are often delayed and inadequate⁸. Efficient service delivery requires that all these gaps be closed⁹.

Lack of citizen participation. Users are not adequately involved in decision-making on WASH service delivery. Public and private service providers do not have all the mechanisms for users to voice their needs and complaints. Citizens have limited access to reliable data to support their claims. Surveys have revealed that greater government accountability correlates with a higher percentage of the population having access to clean drinking water, a link that is likely to be equally valid for the whole spectrum of WASH services¹⁰.

Lack of integration of WASH and water resources management. Increasing water demands for different uses, in combination with climate uncertainty, endanger the security of water resources. Water stress and scarcity are increasing in all regions, with sub-Saharan Africa and South and Central Asia facing the greatest conflicts between water demand and supply¹¹. It is estimated that by 2025, 60 percent of the global population may experience physical water scarcity¹². Despite this, the development of WASH services does not always account for vulnerability of water-regulating ecosystems, and WASH users are not engaged in water resource management governance.

Lack of operationalisation of international commitments. International commitments such as the human right to water and sanitation and the forthcoming Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not yet operationalised into investments and targets. The increasing focus on universal development has not prevented concentration of donor disbursement and investment in some countries, as bilateral donors continue to concentrate their efforts. It appears that donor countries are increasingly using Overseas Development Assistance as a tool to pursue their own financial and political interests, with historical and strategic interests influencing aid allocation. Aid effectiveness and harmonisation have lost traction on the international agenda¹³.

Insufficient leadership (and weak capacity) of governments. Government, the duty bearer for WASH service provision, often neither coordinates nor ensures a dynamic interplay among private, public and citizen stakeholders. Roles overlap, limiting the possibility to hold stakeholders to account. The MDG target for sanitation in 2015 will not be met. The least-developed countries did not meet the targets for drinking water or sanitation. A sector review found that between 2000 and 2008, African countries spent, on average, only 63 percent of WASH budgets¹⁴. Overall data on financing flows to WASH are difficult to access¹⁵.

Each of those challenges offers opportunities for civil society to improve WASH governance: civil society organisations (CSOs) are the voice of citizens at local, national and international level and can make governments more accountable and increase their legitimacy.

⁸ World Bank, 2012. More, better or different spending? Trends in public expenditure on water and sanitation in Sub-Saharan Africa. Washington D.C: The World Bank.

⁹ Ginneken, M.V., Netterstrom, U. and Bennett, A., 2011. More, better, or different spending? Trends in public expenditure on water and sanitation in Sub-Saharan Africa. Washington, DC: World Bank.

¹⁰ Transparency International, The anti-corruption catalyst: realising the MDGs by 2015 [pdf.] Berlin: Transparency International2010b.

WWAP, 2014. The United Nations world water development report 2014: Water and Energy [pdf] Paris: UNESCO
 UNU and UNOSD, 2013. Water for sustainability: framing water within the post-2015 Development Agenda. United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health, UN Office of Sustainable Development and

Stockholm Environment Institute.

13 WaterAid, 2015. Essential element: Why international aid for water, sanitation and hygiene is still a critical source of finance for many countries. July 2015.

¹⁴ World Bank, More, better or different spending? Trends in public expenditure on water and sanitation in Sub-Saharan Africa (Washington, D.C.: World Bank, 2012).

 $^{^{15}}$ World Health Organization (WHO) and UN-Water, 2014a. UN-Water global analysis and assessment of sanitation and drinking-water (GLAAS) 2014 – report. Investing in water and sanitation: increasing access, reducing inequalities.

WASH IT! puts CSOs in a central role:

- At the local level, CSOs have a role in mobilising communities in claiming their water and sanitation rights and participating in decision-making. They can work with local government and local private sector to ensure their needs are met.
- At the national level, CSOs can advocate for changes in WASH policies, practices and discourse to represent voices and perspectives of citizens. They can make available critical evidence and mobilise engagement with stakeholders.
- At the international level, CSOs and their coalitions can advocate for WASH investments that promote universal coverage and integrated water resource management (IWRM) (SDG 6). They can engage with and lobby national governments to uphold the human right to water and sanitation

Addressing the above challenges and improving WASH governance require the participation of a range of stakeholders. However, local and national governments' capacities and resources are weak, ministries of finance (in developed and developing countries) have other priorities, and citizens and communities often have very limited influence over WASH governance.

shows the WASH IT! theory of change, summarising the assumptions and interventions. During the inception phase these assumptions will be further detailed for each focus country, and at the international and Netherlands levels.

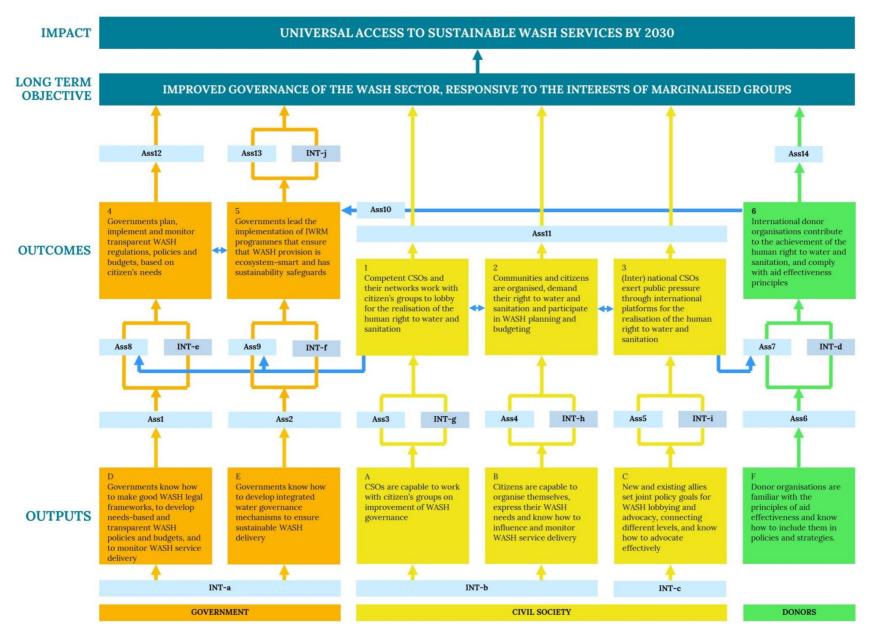


Figure 2 WASH IT! theory of change

Table 1 Assumptions and interventions for WASH IT! theory of change

Assu	nptions	Interve	entions
Ass1	Governments have capacities and resources to fulfil their WASH responsibilities	INT-a	Training local and national government on effective interaction with citizens' groups
	Governments are willing to enter into dialogue with civil society		Training governments on IWRM-based governance
Ass2	Governments are willing to cooperate with stakeholders towards ecosystem approaches within IWRM framework	INT-b	Supporting organisational development of CSOs Building capacity of CSOs for advocacy and monitoring of social accountability
Ass3	CSOs have mandate to represent communities		Linking local CSOs to (inter)national networks
Ass4	Citizens are willing to claim their rights in WASH	INT-c	Forming and strengthening CSO coalitions
Ass5	budgeting and planning processes WASH lobbying platforms see value in and have	INT-d	
Ass6	mandate for joint lobbying and advocacy Donors subscribe to aid effectiveness principles		Advising the Minister and international donors on aid effectiveness compliance
A 7	and comply with International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)	INT-e	Facilitating dialogue between citizens and governments on WASH service delivery
	Donors are receptive to feedback on their aid effectiveness compliance		Supporting data collection and making data openly available
	Governments have political will to interact with citizens on their WASH demands	INT-f	Advocacy towards governments to follow inclusive IWRM governance processes
Ass9	Platforms exist where CSOs and government engage on WASH and water resources management	INT-g	Training CSOs in communicating their WASH needs and monitoring human right to WASH
Ass10	Governments are receptive to donor demands to improve their WASH commitments	INT-h	Applying social accountability tools on WASH service delivery
Ass11	CSOs are willing to play constructive role in improving WASH governance		Supporting communities in accessing and analysing open data on WASH service delivery
Ass12	Governments are willing to change planning and budgeting to be inclusive of needs of	INT-I	Developing evidence-based cases on social accountability for WASH service delivery
	marginalised groups, including women and very poor		Developing advocacy messages and communication channels for international
Ass13	Other water users understand value of sustainable WASH and are willing to engage in IWRM-based governance	INT-j	advocacy Supporting establishment of multi-stakeholder platforms on improving WASH governance
Ass14	Donors are willing to be accountable for their compliance with WASH commitments and aid effectiveness principles		

Stakeholder engagement

The WASH IT! theory of change is based on the belief that achieving universal access to sustainable WASH services and water resources is, above all, a governance challenge. Governance involves many stakeholders, and for governments (national and local), the role is leadership. Only governments have the mandate and overarching vision to ensure universal access to WASH services and to convene water stakeholders and hold them accountable for sustainability. Therefore, the capacity of CSOs to engage with government institutions—lobbying for change and advocating their interests—is critical. Other essential actors involved in WASH service delivery and water resource use (and pollution) are NGOs, donors, the private sector, finance organisations, academic and research institutions, and the media.

The **private sector** has a crucial role in funding and delivering WASH services, and as a major user and polluter of water resources. Although the local private sector (utilities, small and medium enterprises) is most visible in WASH services, large national and multi-national corporations have a huge impact as users and polluters of water resources. Understanding the private sector, its drivers and incentives, and its relationship to government and to WASH service users is one key to effectively targeting them to encourage greater transparency and good practices.

Good WASH governance requires the active and meaningful involvement of users (particularly women), service providers, water resource users and polluters. A strong civil society is essential to ensure that the voices of users are heard by service providers and government, and that government, service providers and the private sector are effectively held to account.

Because effective WASH governance requires coordinated efforts from people and institutions at different spatial and administrative scales, WASH IT! will work at several institutional levels in WASH governance: household, district, national and international, and from micro-catchment to major watershed. In practice, in Kenya and Uganda, this will mean working with a large network of actors in focus districts (two or three per country) in the regions where the districts are located, and with national government, including WASH and IWRM line ministries and members of parliament. It also implies working with water resource management bodies (e.g., catchment councils) whose remits include the focus districts.

To realise the full potential of our partnership to look at the WASH-IWRM nexus in a practical and problem focused way, we will identify and work in districts in our main focus countries where sustainability of WASH services (including issues of quality, quantity and climate related resilience) is strongly linked to water resource management, such as in districts where water resources are scarce and/or contested. Water scarcity, either actual or foreseen, under different or evolving development scenarios and its relationship to current and / or future delivery of WASH, will be assessed. This information base will provide the basis for civil society to advocate for improved and integrated water and WASH governance and related investments.

At international level, donors are a target for lobbying through networks such as Sanitation and Water for All (SWA). The consortium will also target DGIS counterparts, such as USAID and DFID, with WASH and IWRM interests. Together with the Minister, we will target Dutch stakeholders (private, public, CSO) in the international WASH sector, especially those in the Netherlands Water Partnership. We will work with Dutch parliamentarians and the Minister to critically review progress towards the realisation of the human right to water and sanitation.

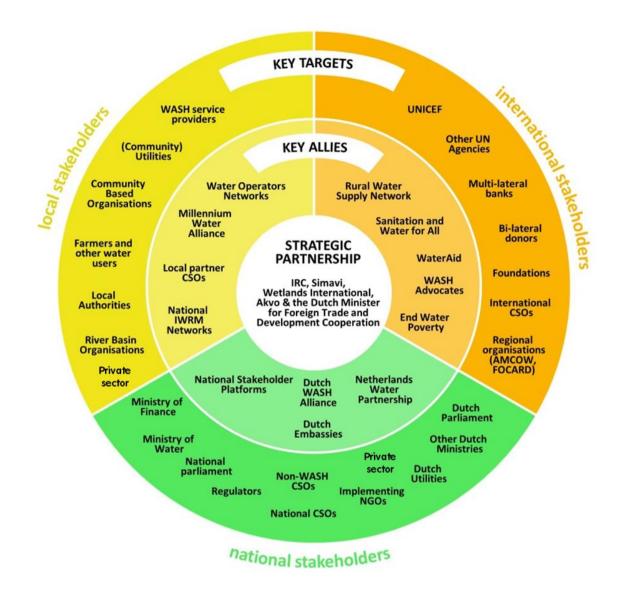


Figure 3 Target groups and allies for lobbying and advocacy

WASH IT! 2016–2020 outcomes

The WASH IT! partnership and programme is guided by the outcomes it seeks to achieve over the next five years. In the experience of the partners, five years is a short time to drive lasting change, in either building capacity or shaping policy. Countries' policies are updated only every five or ten years, and many donor funding cycles are similarly long. As a result, although the WASH IT! consortium is confident of its ability to make progress during the five years of programme funding from DGIS, it is committed to continuing as needed afterwards to effect long-lasting change.

The long-term objective is **improved governance of the WASH sector**, **responsive to the interests of marginalised groups**. For this to happen, all local, national and international WASH stakeholders need to fulfil their roles and responsibilities and interact. The following sections present the main outcomes that WASH IT! seeks to achieve and the strategies that will be followed.

WASH IT! overall outcomes:

- In the countries where we work, competent CSOs and their networks lobby effectively for realising the human right to water and sanitation and reducing inequalities in access to WASH and IWRM services. As a result,
 - Governments plan, budget, implement and monitor transparent WASH and IWRM regulations. Policies and budgets are based on clearly identified citizens' needs (and rights), promote gender equity, and are 'pro-poor'-that is, they address vulnerable, minority, marginalised and very poor members of society.
 - Governments lead implementation of IWRM programmes that ensure WASH provision is 'ecosystem-smart', contains sustainability safeguards and is climate proof. Assessments of water resources policy and management will address likely climate change scenarios.
 - Communities and citizens organise and acquire the capacity to demand their rights to water and sanitation, and they participate in WASH planning and budgeting.
- In the global WASH and IWRM arena, global civil society effectively demands fulfilment of the human right to water and sanitation and equitable and sustainable allocation of water resources. As a result,
 - International donors actively support achievement of the human right to water and sanitation, and they comply with aid effectiveness principles.

The following tables give more details on the outcomes, for the focus countries, the Netherlands and the international level.

Outcomes for WASH IT! countries

Outcome	CSO capacity outcomes						
1	Empowered and organised CSOs, communities and citizens voice their concerns to governments on WASH and IWRM problems (e.g., in landscape-scale water governance) and actively participate in dialogue with government and private sector and identify opportunities for collaboration.						
2	Strengthened civil society organisations are able to lobby for WASH and IWRM, using evidence-based arguments and social accountability tools. For example, to monitor WASH budgets, demand sustainable and inclusive (gender and pro-poor) quality services, and ensure water security, in transboundary water governance.						
Outcome	Lobbying and advocacy outcomes						
3	Local and national expenditures for WASH and IWRM are transparent. Allocations of local and national government budgets are transparent, and demands from stakeholders have been heard.						
4	National and district-level WASH and IWRM policies and plans contain sustainability safeguards, address gender inequities and are pro-poor.						
5	Government, private sector and CSOs engage in dialogue on water security and shared risks that take WASH considerations into account.						

Outcomes for The Netherlands

Outcome	Lobbying and advocacy outcomes			
6	Dutch government has increased budget for WASH, with better targets for marginalised			
	groups.			
7	Dutch government aid policies align with SDGs, integrating WASH and IWRM targets.			
8	DGIS provides accountability for its performance in sustainable WASH delivery in compliance with aid effectiveness principles.			
9	Netherlands WASH sector organisations adopt innovative approaches to meet WASH SDGs.			

Outcomes at international level

Outcome	CSO capacity outcomes					
10	Global CSOs networks engage effectively with multi- and bi-lateral donors and global business					
	community.					
11	CSOs engage effectively with regional inter-governmental processes and networks.					
Outcome	Lobbying and advocacy outcomes					
12	Global focus on WASH, human rights and equity in SDGs is maintained, and 2030 targets are					
	adopted and financed.					
13	Rollout of SDGs takes integrated approach to WASH and water (e.g., IWRM, wastewater,					
	climate change, agriculture).					
14	Need for civil society voice in negotiations on WRM and WASH investments is recognised, and					
	international platforms provide the space for civil society's meaningful involvement in regional					
	and global decision-making.					

In addition to the above, we have identified three cross-cutting outcomes:

Cross-cutting outcomes

Outcome	Cross-cutting capacity building, lobbying and advocacy
15	Knowledge and tools for capacity development and lobbying and advocacy (evidence-based arguments and open data, best practice guidelines) are developed and accessible to all stakeholders for use in awareness raising, advocacy and decision-making.
16	Environmental sustainability and climate resilience are integrated in WASH and IWRM policy and practice (regional, national, local) and in public and private investments.
17	Inclusive (gender and pro-poor) capacity building, lobbying and advocacy efforts result in policies and practices that benefit women and very poor.

Within these broad outcome areas, WASH IT! will develop a rolling list of context-specific lobbying and advocacy objectives that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time-bound, or 'SMART'. Coalitions of CSO partners in each country will identify the most important areas for lobbying and advocacy in their context and will be supported in their activities through the WASH IT! programme. The following sections set out initial thinking on strategies to address four main areas of focus for WASH IT!:

- CSO capacity for lobbying and advocacy
- Priorities of lobbying and advocacy
- Inclusivity, including gender equality
- Climate change and the environment

II. Strategy for CSO capacity development for lobbying and advocacy

WASH IT! will strengthen the capacity of civil society to actively engage with government and other WASH-IWRM actors. The main goal of capacity development is to increase the effectiveness of lobbying and advocacy activities. The strategy discussed in this section relates principally to outcomes 1 and 2 (in countries), 10 and 11 (internationally) and 15.

The **capacity of civil society will be developed to address three principal components** of evidence-based lobbying and advocacy:

- Mapping stakeholders and processes in the WASH-IWRM sector to identify (potential) blockages to the achievement of universal access and sustainability. Mapping will reveal inequalities of access to services, including gender and poverty. It will also identify water security risks related to climate change and environmental degradation.
- Developing strong, compelling strategies for lobbying and advocacy to address these blockages. These evidence-based strategies will reflect gender differences and groups that are excluded from WASH services or lack a voice.
- Implementing these lobbying and advocacy strategies and tracking (using evidence) compliance with agreements made.

The WASH IT! partners will assess and develop the skills and knowledge of national and international CSOs and their networks to undertake these activities. This **intensive process of capacity building** will include formal training, mentoring and coaching. CSO partners and their networks will, over the course of the project, be coached through all three components by consortium partners and outside experts (where needed), in a learning-by-doing iterative process. This approach will ensure their ability to continue the work in the future.

Based on the experiences of our consortium and networks, we expect capacity building to begin with context analysis and be followed by a cycle of yearly action plans informed by monitoring and evaluation.

Inception phase

The nine months inception phase will focus on the context analysis at the local, national and international levels. It will create a baseline and a departure point for future interventions. It will identify the following:

- Political, economic, social, technological, legan and environmental factors (including the threats and opportunities of SWOT analyses) that are likely to affect the partner organisations and their ability to influence policy.
- Capacity assessment of existing partner organisations (a quick-scan using an integrated organisation model, organisational capacity assessment or 5C model).

The context analysis will generate four results:

- The basis for selecting strategic partners to fulfil leading roles at the different levels, ensuring information exchange and development of subsequent management structures;
- Initial participatory identification of at least two policy issues (per country, and internationally):
- Identification of capacity-strengthening needs of the different partners; and
- Outlines for strong, compelling, evidence-based strategies for lobbying and advocacy, based on the policy influencing cycle and CLASP principles, at the local, national and international levels.

Yearly action planning cycle

Next, the consortium partners will develop a cycle of yearly action planning and assessment. Action plans will prioritise new or ongoing areas for lobbying and advocacy and development of CSO capacity. Programme monitoring, evaluation and learning will track progress on all outcomes and feed back into the annual action planning process.

During the initial context analysis and within the first annual action plan, the WASH IT! partners will identify what is needed for the capacity-building strategy, such as training modules, toolkits and coaching trajectories for the different levels (local, national and international) of individual CSOs, including consortium partners, and other structures (networks, platforms, working

groups). Part of this work will include a comparison between findings in different countries so that we can develop a cohesive approach whilst allowing for different needs in different contexts.

III. Strategy for lobbying and advocacy

The WASH IT! theory of change holds that **lobbying and advocacy efforts must be locally relevant** and emerge from an inclusive process of sector mapping with civil society local partners. Based on the partners' knowledge of the focus countries, we can identify likely areas for initial lobbying and advocacy efforts, some of which are already underway.

These activities contribute to outcomes 3, 4 and 5 at the country level; 6 to 9 in the Netherlands; 12, 13 and 14 at international level; and 15.

Through local and international CSOs, we expect to carry out lobbying and advocacy activities on the following themes (for variations at country and international levels, refer to the work packages):

- That governments (national and local) explicitly acknowledge the human right to WASH and develop realistic plans to achieve universal access to WASH services by 2030 and reduce inequalities in service delivery;
- That governments put in place monitoring systems—and make data freely available (open data)—to map progress towards human rights and service delivery;
- That governments clearly identify required budgets and sources of funding for plans, including from public finance, and put in place transparent mechanisms to track finance;
- That development partners, including the private sector, commit to supporting government and government plans and ensure that finance and technical assistance is clearly aligned with these plans;
- That governments create clear enabling policy and legislative frameworks for the delivery of sustainable and inclusive WASH services, including by the private sector;
- That private sector providers of WASH services put in place meaningful measures to extend services to the poorest and those most excluded, and have active processes for assessing user satisfaction;
- That governments create effective water governance mechanisms that take WASH delivery into account in water resource management policy and planning;
- That governments undertake transparent allocation of water resources that take into account the human right to water and sanitation and the role that ecosystems play in supporting this;
- That governments take climate and environmental degradation into account in water allocation strategic planning and budgeting;
- That governments and private sector develop the tools and allocate the resources to ensure that ecosystem services are safeguarded and their allocation is balanced among competing uses:
- That private users of water resources other than for domestic WASH services actively support good water governance.

Initial targets for policy and advocacy at the global level will mirror those listed above, with a strong focus on encouraging donors and other development partners to address sustainability—of both services and resources—as a priority issue (for example, through the use of sustainability clauses).

In line with the activities identified in the previous section, a participatory process undertaken at the start of the project will have the following goals:

- To identify at least two main lobbying and advocacy issues of the likely areas identified above. For these issues, key messages on the description of the aspired changes will be developed.
- To map and analyse stakeholders and policy at all relevant levels. Interactions are envisaged among all levels: from local (within the country), regional (Africa and Asia), the Netherlands and international levels back to the relevant platforms.
- To identify possible pathways of change with corresponding assumptions resulting from the stakeholder analyses and the policy mapping exercises. These pathways of change will be used for developing annual action plans and monitoring progress.
- To assess the WASH IT! lobbying and advocacy goals at least once a year and make any necessary adjustments.

At both international and country levels, the role of DGIS and the embassies of the Netherlands will be critical. At international level it is expected that DGIS will lend its convening power and voice to the lobbying and advocacy aims of the WASH IT! partnership and will be an active stakeholder in agreeing on main areas for lobbying and advocacy. It is also expected that these priorities will be reflected in guidance provided to Netherlands-funded activities in WASH and IWRM.

In country, the same is expected of the embassies. In addition, it is expected that the embassies will ensure that bilateral activities undertaken in their programmes on WASH and IWRM support the jointly developed lobbying and advocacy aims. In the Netherlands, WASH IT! will actively lobby DGIS on its WASH governance agenda and constructively critique DGIS policy and instruments.

IV. Strategy for inclusivity, including gender and equity

Context analysis undertaken at the inception phase will purposely seek out the most disadvantaged water users. It will also undertake gendered analysis to clearly differentiate the different roles of men, women and children and map current power structures that may hinder participation and power in decision-making.

WASH IT! does not assume that only the poor are marginalised, and initial mapping aims to identify all who are excluded from WASH governance: the poor, women, the handicapped, those in remote areas, communities downstream from major water investments, and castes or ethnic groups that suffer discrimination. The latest Joint Monitoring Programme report (WHO/UNICEF, 2015) indicates that despite great progress in the WASH sector since the 1990s, inequalities persist—between poor and non-poor, between urban and rural areas—and women still bear most of the burden of lack of access to sustainable services.

Lobbying and advocacy activities will focus on identifying and including the marginalised in WASH governance, and capacity building will focus on helping CSOs identify and adequately represent women and the marginalised. All evidence collected in WASH IT! work will contain specific gender and socio-economic indicators. The evidence will be made accessible to all stakeholders using open data and adequate platforms. Ensuring transparency and access to information and evidence is the first step to empowering concerned groups, and the partnership will help provide the tools for other organisations to use the same information. Outcome 17 targets work on gender and equity.

Through the process of Gender Integration (or mainstreaming) and equity assessment the WASH IT! programme will assess the implication of any of its planned actions for women, men, girls and

boys, per socio-economic level. On the basis of this analysis, specific lobbying and advocacy activities will focus on the needs of the marginalised and women. Gender integration goes hand in hand with promotion and protection of human rights to water and sanitation and support to capacity building and lobbying activities to eliminate discrimination of any kind (Box 1).

Through both capacity building and evidence-based lobbying and advocacy activities (including the use of social accountability tools), both central and district governments will be made aware of, and encouraged to become more responsive to people's (both women and men, poor and less poor) demands and needs in WASH and be encouraged to respond. The private sector will receive data about the location and needs of the poor and marginalised and will be both encouraged (through help in identifying potential new clients) and held accountable for providing services to them. Our experience tells us that involving the private sector in provision of services to the poorest will only come with the active engagement of government (or others) who can pay at least some of the additional related costs.

Box 1: Framework linking improved services and benefits for women

Community-based water and sanitation services are by and for the *whole* community. Although community empowerment to ensure better service is important, 'community' must be defined. Sometimes only some groups of a community participate and benefit from improvements; often certain groups have more influence and receive more benefits than others.

Some examples:

- Women do not attend or speak at meetings during which community projects and management of services are discussed and decided.
- Men are not involved in hygiene promotion. They are not encouraged to take responsibility for better facilities in the home, improve their own hygiene habits or set examples for their children.
- Poor migrants with only one toilet may pay the same as people in larger houses who produce considerably more waste water.

The following 'Who' questions are therefore important:

- Who in the community is involved in what?
- Who makes decisions?
- Who benefits from what?

The conventional objectives of domestic water supply projects are improved welfare and public health. However, access to water can also deliver significant economic benefits, particularly in drought-prone areas where water scarcity, water point queues and long travel times to pumps are serious constraints. In general, women have limited opportunities to influence the design and operation of domestic water supply projects for their productive uses of water and time.

Rural women in low-income countries spend a large part of their working hours collecting and transporting water, fodder and fuelwood–commodities that are often scarce. In Africa, a typical woman spends an estimated one to four hours per day transporting necessities ¹⁶. A study in Ghana found that rural men spent one-third of the time and one-quarter of the energy that rural women spent on carrying loads.

Reducing women's transport loads can free them to use their time and energy for more productive activities, including new economic undertakings. A World Bank discussion paper, for example, found evidence that 'the labour resource released by reducing the transport burden of

Barwell, Ian (1996). Transport and the village. Findings from African village-level travel and transport surveys and related studies, Washington D.C., USA, World Bank. (World Bank Technical Paper Series No. 344)

women would be reallocated to beneficial reproductive or productive activities.¹⁷ Malmberg¹⁸ gives examples of how women have reallocated the time they saved through better transport systems to other economic activities.

Improving the drinking water supply should therefore be part of a holistic, rural development approach in which women can influence the design and operation of the service so that it meets their domestic and economic requirements. Gender research shows that women who earn income through their productive use of time and domestic water also generally decide on the use of this income. They use it primarily for household expenditure, followed by debt repayment and assets, and care and education for children.

Figure 4 presents conceptual model for the link between an improved water supply and women's domestic, economic and managerial tasks. The model depicts the usual benefits expected from an improved domestic water supply project: women's relief from drudgery and more time for their reproductive (domestic) tasks and for their own personal use.

The more equitably that responsibilities, burdens, benefits and influence and control are shared, the greater the chances that all will support and profit from a project, program or service.

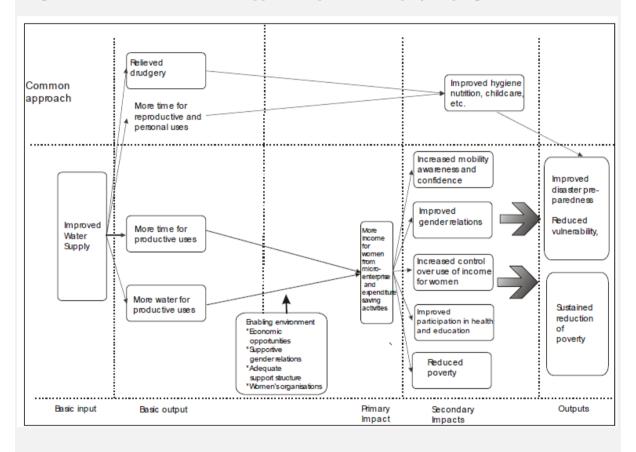


Figure 4 Framework linking improved services and benefits for women

¹⁸ Malmberg-Calvo, Christina (1994). Case study on the role of women in rural transport: Access of women to domestic facilities Washington, D.C., USA, World Bank, World Bank and Economic Commission for Africa. (SSATP Working Paper 11)

V. Climate change and the environment

The UN SDGs recognise the integrated nature of targets that are water related. WASH, water security and environment, including wetlands, are integrated, giving the global community a challenge to translate this into practice. The WASH IT! partnership is well positioned to respond to this challenge and lead this new approach. Climate change and environment are critical to the WASH IT! partnership, particularly to outcome 16.

Most countries in the world base their water policy and management on the principles of integrated water resource management. Typically, however, water for WASH services is not well represented in IWRM policy or practice: other sectors (agriculture, industry and energy) are perceived as more important. The WASH sector itself also tends to overlook its relationship and dependencies on water resource management, seeing the problem as a service delivery issue as opposed to a resource management challenge: the implicit assumption is that there will always be enough water.

Yet WASH is a water-dependent sector, and availability of good-quality water is fundamental to drinking water services. Rising water demand from agriculture, industry and energy, coupled with climate change impacts on the water cycle, means that by 2030, 47 percent of the world population will be living in areas of high water stress¹⁹. Water scarcity is degrading the natural resources on which many marginalised communities depend for their WASH provision. Sensible disposal of waste water is coming under increasing scrutiny as the availability of freshwater resources diminishes.

Natural ecosystems and especially wetlands regulate water availability, directly at the surface or by replenishing groundwater. WASH services, particularly in rural and peri-urban areas, often rely on flows of natural water sources for both supply and sanitation. Wetland sustainability depends upon the health of the environment and is very susceptible to changes in water regime.

Climate change is expected to hamper socio-economic development and exacerbate poverty and vulnerability to disaster. The effect on sustainable WASH provision will be a part of the chain of effects. Changes to the hydrologic system will affect water regime and resource availability, degrading the critical ecosystems that support water supply and waste disposal, and directly affecting the quantity and quality of water. Meanwhile, water resource management decision-making and operations are struggling to meet the needs of the food, industrial and energy sectors. As more users place increasing demands on available freshwater, assumptions about water availability for domestic use become increasingly less sound.

Water governance therefore becomes essential. Wetland-dependent communities in rural and urban areas are often marginalised from water governance, and so their needs are overlooked when water management decisions are made for, say, irrigation and hydropower. An ecosystem service-based approach to WASH and IWRM holds the potential to promote a more equitable balance in meeting various stakeholders' water needs. Ecosystem-based management is also a way to mitigate water risks for water-dependent companies: although certain private sector practices (e.g., agricultural run-off or water diversion for hydropower) may hinder WASH sustainability, many companies are also water-dependent and increasingly engaged in multistakeholder fora, seeking to ensure sustainability for their businesses.

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¹⁹ United Nations World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP), UN-Water, 2012 United Nations World Water Development Report 4. Volume 1: Managing Water under Uncertainty and Risk: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

WASH IT! will develop the awareness and capacity of civil society to articulate the WASH-IWRM interface issues and engage in policy fora and governance structures. It will stimulate the development of knowledge, best practices for local actors and the development of innovative and sometimes surprising partnerships with organisations that can help connect WASH, water security and water resource management policies.

Past work under the Dutch WASH Alliance has largely established the technical understanding of relationships between WASH and water management. It has also begun to advocate for changes in policy and funding to reflect ecosystem approaches to WASH planning and operation. To scale up this work, a better understanding is needed of the sustainability implications. In year 1, each country's hotspot areas—places where water scarcity, development and climate change are affecting ecosystems and related WASH provision—will be mapped. These locations will be the focus for further knowledge development and the formulation of ecosystem-smart WASH and water management solutions. During year 1, results of this analysis will feed back into the partnership's lobbying and advocacy planning at country and international levels.

VI. WASH IT! country selection

WASH IT! country selection was based on four primary criteria:

- 1. The need for civil society capacity building and engagement in WASH and IWRM
- 2. The track record of the consortium partners in the country. An existing office or presence of implementing partners is critical to start WASH IT! activities from January 2016.
- 3. A conducive environment for civil society in a reasonable political environment
- 4. The level of ambition of the consortium partners and the funding available

Countries that met the first two criteria were Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique and Uganda. The WASH IT! partners work in these countries because, among other reasons, access to water and sanitation is limited and inequalities and poverty are an ongoing problem. Table 2 illustrates how in most of these countries, the current rates of expansion of improved sanitation are too low to ensure universal access by 2030.

Table 2 Water and sanitation coverage in selected countries, 2012 and 2030 (projected)

	Population with improved water (%)			Population with improved sanitation (%)		
Country	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural	Total
Bangladesh	86	71	80	55	58	57
Burkina Faso	97	76	82	50	7	19
Ethiopia	97	42	52	27	23	24
Ghana	93	81	87	20	8	14
India	97	91	93	60	25	36
Indonesia	93	76	85	71	46	59
Kenya	81	56	63	31	30	30
Mali	96	64	77	38	16	25
Mozambique	80	35	49	44	11	21
Uganda	95	71	75	33	34	34

Source: Based on WHO/UNICEF, 2014, and WASHWatch, 2015.

Green = On track to reach target of universal access by 2030 at current rates

Yellow = Progress insufficient to achieve universal access by 2030 at current rates

Massive disparities in access to WASH services—between urban and rural, rich and poor—are hidden by national averages. Urban households are much more likely to have improved water and sanitation facilities than rural households. Rural households account for 80 percent of those

who lack access to improved drinking water and 70 percent of those who live without improved sanitation (WHO and UNICEF, 2014). In the inception phase, WASH IT! will map the most excluded within its target countries.

However, Ethiopia did not meet the third criterion, a conducive environment with a reasonable political environment and there were no resources available to work in all the remaining countries.

For the final selection the consortium discussed a combination of other criteria:

- Support from the local Dutch embassy for WASH-related activities (unknown in Uganda, Ghana and India)
- Existing platforms for civil society to engage with the government (weak in Mali and Bangladesh)
- Dutch focus countries, with an aid or a trade agenda (not in India)
- Presence of the international WASH Alliance for increasing synergies with partners and resources (not in India)
- Perceived level of financial and human resources needed to achieve the WASH IT! Goals
- Geographic distribution
- Possibilities to raise additional resources

Looking at available budgets and geographic distribution, the partners decided to keep the level of ambition high and spread resources over six countries but with different levels of intensity. This analysis reduced the number of countries to six: Bangladesh, Ghana, India, Kenya, Mali and Uganda. Table 3 shows the final result.

Table 3 Final country selection

	Need + track record of partners (office or presence)	Conducive environment for civil society	Support from local Dutch embassy	Platforms for civil society to engage government	Dutch focus counties (aid or trade agenda)	Presenc e of WASH Alliance	Resources needed for civil society engagement
Kenya	Simavi (network), Akvo, Wetlands	Y	Y	Y	Y: Trade	Y	Medium
Uganda	IRC, Simavi	Y	?	Y	Y: Trade	Y	Medium
Bangladesh	Simavi (Of), Wetlands	Weak	Y	Weak	Y: Trade	Y	Medium
Ghana	IRC, Simavi (IP), Akvo	Y	?	Y	Y: Trade	Y	Low
India	IRC, Wetlands, Simavi, Akvo	Y	?	Y	N	N	Low
Mali	Wetlands, Akvo	Y	Y	Weak	Y: Aid	Y	Medium

In the first years of the project, a full package of capacity building and lobbying and advocacy activities will be applied in Kenya and Uganda. This will consist of lobbying and advocacy—across the entire WASH system, from community to national level, and through the full water cycle, from resources to user and back—in selected districts. The effects, in terms of improved services resulting from the lobbying and advocacy, will be closely monitored.

In Bangladesh, Ghana, India and Mali, elements of the full package will be applied where we see high potential for change. In these countries a more modest but focused engagement will make a disproportionate change (e.g. supporting civil society organisations in Ghana where the enabling environment is already somewhat conducive for WASH IT! activities).

Focus areas are expected to include identifying and strengthening CSOs to lobby and advocate for sustainable water allocation and WASH services for wetland communities in Mali; supporting the coordination of activities of CSOs, the private sector and government authorities to increase water security and sustainability despite groundwater overuse in India; and supporting local and national budget tracking by CSOs in Bangladesh.

VII. WASH IT! work packages

WASH IT! is divided into 11 work packages, each led by one of the consortium partners. The objective of this approach, backed by the WASH IT! broader governance structure, is to give a clear lead and single point of accountability for each work package, under the overall guidance of the WASH IT! director and board. Each country has its own work package, as do the Netherlands and the international efforts. In addition, there are work packages for monitoring and learning, management and coordination, and fundraising (Table 4).

Table 4. WASH IT! work packages and lead partners

Work package	Lead
Kenya	Simavi
Uganda	IRC
Bangladesh	Simavi
Ghana	IRC
India	Wetlands
Mali	Wetlands
Netherlands	Simavi
International	IRC
Monitoring and learning	Akvo
Fundraising and creating leverage	Simavi
Management and coordination	IRC

The following sections outline each work package and describe the focus for the first year.

Kenya work package

Programme management. Simavi is the lead for Kenya, with a senior programme officer coordinating from the Netherlands (with frequent travel to Kenya) and a WASH IT! country coordinator at the Kenya Water and Sanitation CSOs Network (KEWASNET). Akvo, Wetlands and IRC will provide support through their country, regional and international staffs.

Context and strategy

Kenya is classified as a 'chronically water scarce' country, and available renewable water resources are projected to fall to 653 m³ per capita per year by 2030–well below the recommended minimum of 1700 m³. Furthermore, Kenya is highly vulnerable to climatic variability and has inadequate water storage capacity, often resulting in floods and drought. Despite chronic water scarcity, the country has developed only 15 percent of its available safe water resources. The quality of surface water is increasingly a matter of concern because of urban and industrial pollution and agricultural development.

The Kenya vision 2030 aims to achieve full access to water and sanitation for all. Progress has been made on access to water, but there is still a major gap towards achieving full access by 2030. The latest update on progress (UNICEF, 2015) indicates that 63 percent of the country's 46 million people have access to improved water, yet limited to no progress has been made in sanitation, which still stands at an alarming 30 percent.

Devolution under the 2010 Kenya constitution has wide-ranging implications for the WASH sector. The constitution recognises that access to safe and sufficient water is a basic human right. It also assigns responsibility for county water supply and sanitation provision to the 47 counties. Current performance of water and sanitation service delivery indicates poor governance and poor responsiveness at the county level. CSOs partly fill this gap; however, their main role is to advocate for systemic changes at county and national level for sustainable and effective management of water resources and the environment.

Our lobbying and advocacy programme will contribute to effective implementation of the decentralised framework. By the end of five years we will have contributed to more responsive CSO participation in the WASH sector, which will in turn contribute to improved sector performance in delivering transparent, sustainable and inclusive WASH services.

Like other countries in the midst of devolution, Kenya faces many challenges related to local capacity to act; therefore emphasis will be on supporting and strengthening county government (policy development and capacity building) as well as increasing citizens' voice and representation. Linking WASH utilities and users, KEWASNET will be a key partner in bringing evidence from the field (from local NGOs and community-based organisations) to the national agenda, facilitating partnerships between policymakers and stakeholders, and encouraging equitable participation by all parties in governance and decision-making, through active participation in technical working groups and regional networks such as the African Civil Society Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW) and End Water Poverty (EWP).

The following activities will begin in year 1:

- Mapping stakeholders and processes (including potential partnerships)
- Mapping available sector data on access and performance, conduct trend analysis
- Mapping user satisfaction levels and identify main issues challenging inclusive and responsive WASH service delivery
- Consolidating best practices for (gender) inclusive and responsive WASH service delivery

- Identifying capacity gaps in lobbying and advocacy of selected CSOs
- Reflecting upon the outcomes of the MFSII programmes and building upon successes

The mapping activities will not start from scratch, however: the WASH IT! partners already have working relationships at national level, such as Transparency International Kenya; Kenya Water for Health Organisation (KWAHO), an active member of the Sector Wide Approach Programme (SWAP) and Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC); and Haki Jamii, a national human rights organisation that works with marginalised groups to claim their economic, social and cultural rights. The Centre for Social Planning and Administrative Development (CESPAD) has been promoting IWRM nationally and in targeted counties to improve water resources governance, taking into account ecological sustainability of the vital environmental systems.

Private sector development in Kenya is growing at a fast pace, with innovative technological and financial approaches. However, it is difficult to assess some areas of Kenya because of lack of information and engagement with government and NGOs. Year 1 will include an assessment of private sector information needs on WASH and IWRM demand and existing service levels, and on their roles and engagement. Private sector actors will be included in capacity-building activities, as well as in discussion for aand dialogues. We will build upon established relationships-for example, KEWASNET has engaged the Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) in the joint response by non-state actors on the Water Bill 2014.

Since leveraging is crucial, we will seek synergies with other strategic partnerships, like Partners for Resilience, and embassy-supported programmes, such as the Water Financing Facility (WFF). We will work through existing institutions and structures and strengthen those where needed. After the mapping exercise, two focus counties will be selected for in-depth activities to build the evidence base and contribute to the learning agenda. By leveraging training and capacity building with other groups and other WASH It! member programmes, we will be able to extend our evidence base, scale up and put more weight behind our lobbying agenda.

Several parallel but interlinked strategies will be jointly rolled out from the community level towards district and national level, and vice versa, to address the policy issues identified during the inception phase. This is expected to include bottom-up, gender-sensitive citizen engagement activities with local Simavi partners, to strengthen accountability mechanisms. Tools such as community score cards and citizen report cards, which provide insight into user satisfaction (including taking into account different gender needs), will facilitate monitoring of progress towards effective service delivery by (semi-) private service providers. Budget tracking will provide insight into the budget allocation process as well as unaccounted-for gaps. All information will be shared and discussed in fora, both to validate outcomes and to call for action.

See the planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning work package for details on the monitoring and learning trajectory. The information gathered during the inception phase through context analysis, stakeholder mapping and gap identification will further shape the work in Kenya.

Priority activities for year 1, by outcome

Country capacity building for competent CSOs and their networks to lobby effectively

CSO capacity outcomes related activities Outcome 1

- Map current stakeholders and identify their capacity gaps
- Capacity building of CSOs and sector professionals to identify and analyse WASH and IWRM problems
- Strengthen KEWASNET's knowledge on IWRM so as to be able to mainstream in their operations

	 Capacity building of CSOs and sector professionals to take into account environmental issues and approaches when designing and implementing WASH interventions Training on women empowerment in decision-making related to WASH issues to ensure proper representation in policy dialogue
2	 Map existing learning and exchange networks CSOs trained on use of accountability tools like citizen report cards, community scoring cards, other reporting mechanisms (e.g., use of SMS-texting) to engage with private sector and government
	 CSOs trained to use sustainability monitoring framework (piloted in Kenya in Dutch WASH Alliance and further developed) and sustainability index to engage with government to demand for inclusive and sustainable WASH service delivery CSOs have capacity to package and use evidence for their lobbying and advocacy agenda

Country lobbying and advocacy for governments to plan, implement and monitor WASH and IWRM regulations

regulations	
Outcome	Lobbying and advocacy outcomes related activities
3	 WASH budget analysis and advocacy to demand equitable WASH budget allocation and effective utilisation at national level (collecting feedback, validating outcomes, risk mapping, publications, fora) County-level monitoring of services and institutions (including information on budget, allocation, spending, openness of data) Linking into and supporting county and national monitoring system
4	 Analysis of pro-poor, gender and water security aspects of national policy Compare Kajiado County water policy (supported by Simavi) development process with Laikipia (supported by WI) and IRC/SNV programme (Busia, Homa Bay, Kakamega, Kisii, Kitui, Kisumu, Marsabit, Nandi, Siaya, Vihiga) and develop approach for rollout to other counties, for water safety-inclusive WASH policy development Facilitate design of county WASH and IWRM action plans and legislation and ensure (gender and marginalised) inclusiveness (for two focus counties) Advocate for IWRM and community-based water resources management at county level (at two focus counties) as mechanism that contributes to national water security Advocate at county and national level for WASH in institutions (schools, health centres, government buildings) and public places, including gender-sensitive designs Advocate for design criteria for WASH infrastructure, including environmental safety and gender sensitivity
5	 Identify risk hotspots (overlaying water security and WASH interventions) Pilot interventions to deal with risk hotspots, monitoring and assessing government, private sector and CSO interaction Engage private sector. For this, the embassy is instrumental for private sector opening up to pro-poor and water security issues (potential link to WFF). Facilitate multi-stakeholder processes of engagement on water security issues

Cross-cutting: Capacity building, lobbying and advocacy

Outcome	Cross-cutting: Capacity building, lobbying and advocacy related activities						
15	 See outcomes 3, 4, 5 Quantitative and qualitative tools will be used. Quantitative data collection will be done with Akvo FLOW. Akvo FLOW allows for tailored web-based data collection. Others Akvo tools to be deployed to facilitate transparency, access to information and building evidence base are RSR, DASH, and Caddisfly, Guidance and training on use of sustainability monitoring framework and sustainability index 						
16	• See outcomes 1, 4, 5						
17	• See outcomes 1, 2, 4, 5						

Uganda work package

Programme management. IRC is the lead. The programme will be managed by the IRC country director in Uganda. Akvo, Wetlands and Simavi will provide support through their country, regional and international staff.

Context and strategy

Uganda is a landlocked country in East Africa with a population of more than 35 million people and an annual population growth rate of 3.2 percent, the highest in the world. As of June 2014, the proportion of the population with access to safe water in urban areas was 72.8 percent. The rural population with access to safe water was jut 64 percent. Functionality of rural water facilities was at 85 percent and that of urban facilities at 87 percent. The national household latrine coverage has seen limited improvement, from 71 percent to 74.8 percent, and likewise hand washing with soap after latrine usage has improved from 29 percent to 32.8 percent (SPR 2014).

CSOs in Uganda implement WASH activities and interventions at the national and decentralised levels. After the 1980–1986 civil war, CSOs and NGOs provided traditional charity services, including health and water services, and also contributed to rehabilitation, reconstruction and reconciliation efforts. Beginning in the late 1980s, NGOs combined their service delivery interventions with policy advocacy and shifted to holding government to account. The NGO Registration Act in 1989 (amended in 2006), the Non-Governmental Organisations Registration Regulations (2009), and the National NGO Policy (2010) have provided NGOs with the required legitimacy to meet social needs, operate in the country, and access financial support.

However, advocacy approaches have been reactive and focussed mainly on policy design, not monitoring implementation²⁰. After initial successes showed that NGOs were effectively influencing government and achieving substantive changes in policy, NGOs have changed strategies and adopted more organised proactive mechanisms that have resulted in the emergence and growing importance of broadly inclusive non-governmental platforms that allow CSOs to engage more constructively with government.

Over several decades, and with increasing intensity in recent years, NGOs in Uganda have participated in vigorous efforts to shape public policy. The emergence of such civil society advocacy in Uganda reflects the growing and welcome ability of civil society 'to occupy space inadvertently ignored by government'²¹. The Save Mabira Crusade (Mabira) from August 2006 to October 2007 helped reverse a governmental decision to give a significant tract of protected forest to an agricultural developer. The Anti-Corruption Coalition in Uganda was established after sporadic efforts prior to 1999 to address corruption in Ugandan society. The Domestic Relations Bill advocacy campaign 1940–2011, a very long term and so far unsuccessful effort, has sought to develop and pass a sweeping domestic relations bill to address persistent gender inequalities in property, marriage and divorce law. Disability Advocacy in Uganda (PWD) has pushed for the improvement of the status of people with disabilities, starting as early as 1970 in one case and as recently as 2005 in another, and contributed to or benefited from passage of Uganda's People with Disabilities Act in 2006.

²⁰ DENIVA, (2006) Civil Society in Uganda: At the Crossroads 21 ASPEN Institute & UNNGOF (2010), Civil Society Advocacy in Uganda: Lessons Learned

At present, WASH and IWRM CSOs in Uganda are organised in an umbrella organisation called the Uganda Water and Sanitation NGO Network (UWASNET). UWASNET members have an organised forum for collaboration, partnerships and networking between WASH CSOs, development partners and government as well as supporting CSOs through capacity building and research to influence policy, practice and dialogue. UWASNET has also documented and disseminated innovations and best practices.

In addition, through UWASNET, CSOs participate in the Sector Wide Approach (SWAp), a framework in which the Ministry of Water and Environment in Uganda operates, and which recognises the complementary role that CSOs play in the water and sanitation sub-sector. UWASNET also enables WASH CSOs to participate in regional and global partnerships, including the African Civil Society Network for Water and Sanitation (ANEW), the Fresh Water Action Network (FAN), End Water Poverty–UK, World Water Council–Paris, Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC), Sanitation and Water for All (SWA), Beyond 2015 and the Global Water Partnership.

The Second National Development Programme, the Joint Water and Environment Sector Support Programme (JWESSP) and the Strategic Sector Investment Plan all recognise the important roles played by different actors, including CSOs, in improving WASH and IWRM in Uganda. They also note that the contribution of CSOs requires strength in advocacy and lobbying and that capacity building is a continual process. CSOs therefore need to support the implementation of the WASH-IWRM policies but also ensure that people-centred policies are developed by the state. Beyond direct service delivery, CSOs are also well positioned to influence the implementation of WASH-IWRM policies and laws and ensure that they uphold the principles meant to guide their implementation. CSOs should encourage public participation, remain poverty focused and pro-poor, promote sustainable management of WASH-IWRM and ensure that public and private actors engaged in the process are held accountable at all levels.

To support CSOs in advocacy and lobby for improvements in policy, practice and discourse of WASH and IWRM, a four-pronged approach will be used:

- 1. Engagement of key stakeholders: private sector to secure funding and delivery of WASH services, and media, academic and research organisations to create mass awareness and generate evidence required for advocacy and lobbying
- 2. Civil society participation to ensure that the voices of users are heard by government, and that government, service providers and the private sector are effectively held to account
- 3. Capacity building of CSOs in WASH and IWRM policy analysis, advocacy and lobbying—essential skills for monitoring, engaging with government and other WASH-IWRM actors, influencing policy and promoting accountability
- 4. Support to help CSOs engage in advocacy and lobbying, using various strategies

UWASNET will be used as an entry point to strengthen the capacities of CSOs in Uganda to advocate and lobby for universal access to sustainable WASH and IWRM services. IRC is already implementing the WASH Advocacy Challenge project with UWASNET, and working together on WASH IT! will be an additional boost to improving CSO capacities in WASH and IWRM advocacy and enabling the UWASNET members and regional coordinators to participate in influencing policy and outcomes.

We will aim to improve the responsiveness of government, private sector and other duty bearers to the demands of CSOs and their constituencies by creating citizen and district multistakeholder dialogue and coordination platforms, media engagement and organising policy dialogues for all sector actors.

We will start by mapping the stakeholders and processes in the WASH-IWRM sector to identify (potential) blockages to achievement of universal access and sustainability. Mapping will address inequalities of access to services, including gender and risks to water security related to climate and environmental degradation.

We will then develop strong, evidence-based strategies for lobbying and advocacy to address these blockages. The evidence will include gender-specific data and analysis, and the strategies will take into account other groups excluded from WASH services or without a voice. This will be followed by implementation and tracking (using evidence) in compliance with agreements made.

Awareness raising will be done through learning or dialogues involving key sector actors and the private sector, plugging into current initiatives, such as the Netherlands Africa Business Council (the Dutch embassy can play a role here) and IWASP (GIZ), which links government, private sector and civil society. We will share research results with businesses and create awareness of the risks involved with operating and investing without considering ecosystem health.

Finally, engaging the private sector often means making the 'business case' for investing in WASH-related services and/or activities. Use of Akvo Caddisfly, a mobile water quality monitoring tool, provides opportunities for engagement with various private sector actors, particularly providers of water treatment.

Social accountability interventions at decentralised levels geared to promoting inclusiveness and focussed on universal access will also be implemented. We will advocate for equity in allocation of water to rural and urban areas and those in lower wealthy quintiles. Our approach to WASH service delivery will ensure that the disabled and older people, women, children, refugees and other marginalised groups such as refugees are actively involved in planning and implementing WASH programmes, including the design and adaptation of WASH activities and technologies. Representatives from marginalised groups will be specifically included in WASH and IWRM trainings.

Priority activities for year 1, by outcome

Country capacity building for competent CSOs and their networks to lobby effectively:

Outcome	CSO capacity outcomes related activities
1	 Mapping CSOs WASH advocacy, lobbying, capacity development and IWRM contributions, structures, actors, activities, implementation, roles, preparedness, participation, tools, approaches, blockages, solutions Context analysis on laws, rules, regulations, constitutions on IWRM and WASH and integration of natural resources management in national development plans Capacity development of CSOs for community-level assessments for effective management of water resources in WASH programs, including monitoring of groundwater levels, rainfall and stream flows so as to understand drivers of water stress
2	 Training and building capacity on lobbying and advocacy for CSOs at national and district levels and for local government Capacity building for monitoring WASH services delivery and WASH financing Build capacity of local governments or WMOs for undertaking water use surveys Train CSOs to monitor borehole water levels, rainfall and stream flows at least monthly without assistance of technicians. Use local monitoring data to inform decisions on water use

Country lobbying and advocacy for governments to plan, implement and monitor WASH and IWRM regulations:

Outcome	Lobbying and advocacy outcomes related activities
3	Use life-cycle costs approach (LCCA) to conduct annual tracking of national and district WASH and IWRM budgets and expenditures

	Engage media in WASH to enhance transparency in budget allocation, utilisation and WASH service delivery
	• Support CSOs to participate and engage in policy development processes for revised sector investment plans and water policy and legislation
4	 Advocate and lobby for Improved functionality and maintenance of rural water supply systems Increased budget allocation to water and environment sector Improved decentralised water resources planning, regulation, monitoring, assessment and information services Increased access to improved sanitation and hygiene in rural and urban areas (gender and pro-poor aspects) Increased access to safe water supply in rural and urban areas(gender and pro-poor aspects) Participate and engage in: Development of Sector Investment Plan II, national SDGs policy and strategy and other key WASH and IWRM policies and strategies Monitoring WASH service delivery Country-level processes related to Beyond 2015, SWA, End Water Poverty, GLAAS, UN Water and WASH and IWRM Human Rights
5	 Collaborate with Water and Environment Media Network (WEMNET) document on WASH and IWRM innovations and best practices in advocacy and lobbying Advocate for IWRM and community-based resource management as mechanism that can contribute towards national water security and support national water management initiatives through local action Attend and contribute to meetings of IWASP and 2030 Water Resources Group

Cross-cutting: Capacity building, lobbying and advocacy

Outcome	Cross-cutting: Capacity building, lobbying and advocacy related activities
15	 See outcomes 3, 4, 5 Disseminate WASH sector policies so that civil society can better participate in decision-making Develop maps showing degrees of water security and WASH to identify hotspots of risks (e.g., Dopeth catchment, Lake Kyoga) Collect, process and share data to provide evidence for advocacy (as well as for planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning), using tools and methods from programme partners
16	 Lobby for improved IWRM and protection of Uganda's interests in international and trans-boundary waters In drought-prone areas, advocate for water supply programmes that meet multiple community water-use priorities
17	 Develop specific activities with National Association for Women's Action in Development, specialist in rights-based approaches and gender equality Organise capacity-building workshop for CSOs in WASH equity, inclusion and gender mainstreaming Work with WEMNET to take voices of marginalised citizens to decision-makers and pressure them to act, and build capacities of media practitioners and media firms in inclusive WASH information generating and sharing

Bangladesh work package

Programme management. Simavi is the lead for Bangladesh.

Akvo, Wetlands and IRC will provide support through their country, regional and international staff.

Context and strategy

National water supply and sanitation coverage in Bangladesh have improved significantly over the past few years. However, the overall situation at the national level is still constrained by many problems, such as lack of pro-poor policies and strategies and inadequate participation of marginalised people in decision-making. Poor governance is also a problem, evident in centralised planning and service delivery process, capacity gaps in local government institutions, lack of transparency and accountability of service providers, gaps between policy and practice, administrative barriers, weak understanding of and political commitment to WASH, little integration of WASH and health, and lack of motivation to keep promises at regional and international platforms (e.g., SACOSAN, SWA/HLM). The situation is exacerbated by urbanisation, inadequate funds, surface water pollution, environmental degradation and depletion of ground water.

The WASH IT! programme will build upon the experiences of the Dutch WASH Alliance and focus on the following interventions:

- Promoting good governance in WASH by advocating for pro-poor WASH policies, budget transparency, equitable WASH budget allocation and effective utilisation at local (union, upazila, district) and national levels and promoting inclusion, such as women's participation in local government decision-making bodies and the inclusion of a separate budget line for hygiene at the national level
- Enhancing environmental considerations in WASH policy formulation and service delivery at both local and national levels, with a focus on urban rainwater harvesting, floodplain management, integration of IWRM in WASH planning and interventions and ecosystembased solutions for WASH interventions
- Sensitising decision-makers and service providers on the importance of faecal sludge management, influencing formulation of policy and regulations to stop the discharge of untreated waste into the environment and demanding proper emptying, transport and treatment services at the national level
- Raising awareness on menstrual hygiene management to break the silence and stigma surrounding menstruation and deal with taboos, and advocating for proper sanitation facilities at institutions (schools, health centres, government buildings) and public places at regional and national levels

Priority activities for year 1, by outcome

Country capacity building for competent CSOs and their networks to lobby effectively

Outcome	CSO capacity outcomes related activities
1	 Capacity building of CSOs and sector professionals to take into account environmental issues and approaches when designing and implementing WASH interventions Women's empowerment capacity-building activities to increase proper participation in decision-making process related to WASH issues in homes and communities Develop capacity development response strategy for identified NGO and CSO partners Assessing baseline capacities of CSOs to engage in IWRM- and WASH-related lobbying and advocacy, including environmental sustainability concerns
2	 CSOs have capacity to monitor WASH budget allocation by local governments and service providers (i.e., DPHE) at union and upazila level and to demand need-based WASH allocation and utilisation Adaptation of sustainability monitoring framework for situation in Bangladesh and pilot capacity strengthening of CSOs to engage in dialogue with government to demand sustainable WASH services Develop capacity-building modules for IWRM as pathway for environmentally sustainable WASH

Country lobbying and advocacy for governments to plan, implement and monitor WASH and IWRM regulations

regulation	regulations	
Outcome	Lobbying and advocacy outcomes related activities	
3	 WASH budget analysis and advocacy to demand equitable WASH budget allocation and effective utilisation at national level After inception phase, advocating for inclusion of separate line for hygiene in national WASH budget Collect and map evidence on service levels and costs for advocacy, document government (and civil society implementers) spending on WASH (budget monitoring and life-cycle costing), identifying what is needed to serve unserved 	
4	 Advocate for pro-poor WASH policies at national level Evidence-based advocacy with government officials for adaptation of specific environmental measures in WASH-related rules and regulations, with focus on rainwater harvesting, floodplain management, integration of IWRM in WASH planning and interventions and ecosystem-based solutions to WASH Map, sensitise and lobby decision-makers and service providers on importance of faecal sludge management Map stakeholders and advocate for implementation of institutional WASH policies and WASH facilities Awareness raising on menstrual hygiene management to break silence and stigma surrounding menstruation and deal with taboos, improve hygienic practices among female students, improve school attendance and demand clean, unlocked sanitation facilities segregated by sex with water, soap and disposal bin (for girls' toilet) at schools Lobbying and advocacy for fulfilment of government promises on WASH via international platforms (e.g., high-level meetings, SACOSAN) 	
5	 Support lobbying and advocacy actions with knowledge and capacity interventions in relation to water security and IWRM-WASH sustainability Identify risk hotspots (overlaying water security and WASH interventions) 	

Cross-cutting: Capacity building, lobbying and advocacy

Outcome	Cross-cutting: Capacity building, lobbying and advocacy related activities
15	 Share WASH services data as open data, such as water point data using Water Point Data Exchange (WPDx) standards Data collection, processing and sharing to provide evidence for advocacy (as well as for planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning), using with tools and methods from programme partners
16	• See outcomes 1, 5
17	• See outcomes 1, 3, 4

India work package

Programme management. Wetlands International South Asia leads, with Akvo and IRC country representatives and international staff support.

Context and strategy

India's new political leadership has brought WASH to fore in the national development agenda. The challenge is enormous: investments in the water supply network thus far have covered 90 percent of population, but more than 60 percent population defecates in open and more than 80 percent of surface water sources remain highly polluted.

The Swacchh Bharat Mission (launched on 2 October 2014 with a goal of making India open defecation free by 2019) cuts across urban and rural populations and involves education, health, women and children. It emphasises the significance of sanitation facilities at the household, community and school level, and also institutions like health care facilities and public places, which are crucial to achieving broader hygiene and sanitation goals. Reaching the goal of sustainable WASH will require addressing several challenges, such as enabling participation in planning WASH services, promoting investment streams that are alternatives to state-dependent delivery models based on physical infrastructure, enhancing effectiveness of institutional arrangements, and creating the basis for inter-sectorial cooperation. The uneven geographic distribution of water, pollution of water sources and unregulated large-scale private investments in drinking water and sanitation at household level must be addressed comprehensively.

WASH IT! implementation in India seeks to strengthen water and WASH governance in the country through an evidence-based engagement with government agencies, built on field actions in the states of Bihar and Odisha.

WASH services in these two states are amongst the lowest in the country. The Gangetic floodplains of Bihar and the deltaic regions of Odisha have very high exposure to flood risk. Naturally productive because of fluvial processes, both have high concentrations of economic assets and infrastructure. Livelihood systems, which evolved symbiotic to variable inundation regimes, have become vulnerable to flooding because of water management policies that failed to integrate geophysical and ecological dynamics. As a result, WASH provision has been a significant challenge, involving programmatic design gaps as well as ecological factors. The consequent nutritional, health and income deficits have perpetuated an intergenerational cycle of poverty and deprivation.

CSOs in Bihar and Odisha and at national level already have some networks to engage with government on WASH. Civil society is recognised as being critically important in the WASH sector, especially for ensuring last-mile delivery of the investments, improving effectiveness through stakeholder participation, monitoring outcomes and promoting innovation. At the same time, an integrated agenda has yet to be carried forward because civil society lacks evidence and knowledge, tools, best practices and conceptual training. CSOs' understanding and position to advocate for more integrated thinking and approaches to water resource management need further development. WASH IT! will equip CSO networks to engage with government, nongovernment and private sector donor agencies by developing the knowledge base and capacities related to sustainable WASH and water governance.

Priority activities for year 1, by outcome

Country capacity building for competent CSOs and their networks to lobby effectively

Outcome	CSO capacity outcomes related activities
1	• Mapping national and state-level WASH and water resources programmes and organisations (including investments by private sector)
	• Establishing an understanding of how these issues are related amongst CSO networks as a basis for future lobbying and advocacy and to organise themselves to work on these issues
	 Mapping existing learning networks at national and state level and reviewing existing curricula to identify gaps, leading to design of learning initiatives in later years
2	Baseline assessments of existing capacities of CSO networks to apply integrated approaches will be made and a gap analysis of capacity building needs completed. These will underpin capacity building programme development and delivery in later years

Country lobbying and advocacy for governments to plan, implement and monitor WASH and IWRM regulations

regulation		
Outcome	Lobbying and advocacy outcomes related activities	
3	 Groundwork will be laid for outcomes 3, 4 and 5 in terms of mapping policy, budget and implementation and understanding how these relate to risk hotspots Assessing current monitoring approaches adopted by government and donor agencies Identifying gaps and opportunities for innovation (especially in areas of participatory monitoring and planning) Structure of proactive monitoring system will be developed, enabling CSO monitoring of investment in terms of effectiveness and equity (including addressing environmental sustainability) Connecting budget commitments to areas of most need or risk, building understanding in agencies to integrate these issues into their plans and investments and engaging in dialogue around major water resource investment plans that may increase risk 	
4	 Lobbying and advocacy will focus WASH water resources management nexus in dialogue with government agencies at relevant scales of decision-making To build sustainability there will be strong focus on influencing learning institutions and networks of mandated government organisations Key tools will be cross-sector dialogues, use of media to raise awareness of key issues to public attention 	
5	 Private sector organisations will be key focus, given their increasing role in Indian WASH delivery and their role as driver to water resource management investments 	

Cross-cutting: Capacity building, lobbying and advocacy

Outcome	Cross-cutting: Capacity building, lobbying and advocacy related activities
15	 Evidence-based knowledge will be based on both desk study and assessment of existing pilot projects and field studies Activities will include identification of existing best practices and risk hotspots (overlaying layers on water security, WASH provision, basin fragmentation, ecosystems and biodiversity values) Data collection, processing and sharing to provide evidence for advocacy (as well as for planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning), using tools and methods from programme partners
16	Capacity for civil society to lobby for improved WASH and IWRM policy, planning and investments will be strongly underpinned by appreciation of interdependence of these systems
17	Focusing on rural communities in flood-prone and water-scarce regions means advocating for solutions that complement and benefit poorest and most marginalised communities, particularly women and children. Focus will be in bringing voices of these groups into lobbying and advocacy by ensuring their inclusion in knowledge development and civil society capacity development, which cuts across other outcomes.

Ghana work package

Programme management. IRC is the lead. The programme will be managed by the IRC country director in Ghana. Akvo, Wetlands and Simavi will provide support through their country and regional staff.

Context and strategy

Ghana's vision for the water and sanitation sector is 'sustainable basic water and sanitation service for all by 2025'. In 2011, 87 percent of Ghana's population had access to improved drinking water, but sanitation coverage was just 14 percent. Despite the gains made in the water sector, ensuring that new water infrastructure delivers sustainable services remains a challenge, and poor sanitation continues to take a heavy toll on people's well-being.

The role of CSOs in influencing decision-makers at all levels is critical to increasing WASH prioritisation and ensuring equitable service delivery. However, WASH NGOs in Ghana have not employed integrated lobbying and advocacy approaches to influence decision-makers at local and national levels, despite the huge potential for impact on WASH governance.

WASH NGOs in Ghana contribute to water resources management and sustainable provision of water and sanitation, and hygiene promotion services, but have had limited impact in influencing decision-makers to effectively finance and ensure equitable service delivery (e.g., to the poorest areas, including those where women are most affected).

Based on this assessment, our strategy is to review CSO advocacy approaches; identify gaps for increasing the effectiveness of CSO lobbying and advocacy interventions; build the capacities of the Coalition of NGOs in Water and Sanitation (CONIWAS) to influence duty bearers; build capacities and increase opportunities for outreach of the Ghana WATSAN Journalists Network (GWJN); build the capacities of the Resource Centre Network (RCN) and of Friends of Water Bodies; and support all of these organisations in deploying new lobbying and advocacy approaches based on evidence from ongoing initiatives.

IRC will focus on strengthening CONIWAS and assessing and improving its lobbying and advocacy campaigns, supporting RCN in bringing stakeholders together and initiating dialogue between civil society and duty bearers about the human right to water and sanitation and citizens' demands for affordable, high-quality water services.

Simavi will help CSOs formulate their WASH needs and demand improved WASH service provision. Akvo interventions will support evidence-based lobbying and advocacy, help organisations gather and use quality data and make it accessible and enable transparency on reporting. A target organisation for strengthening is CONIWAS, and the support will consist of using existing data, in particular the DiMES data, to draw conclusions on the quality of water services and use this evidence when lobbying district and national governments.

Priority activities for year 1, by outcome

Country capacity building for competent CSOs and their networks to lobby effectively:

Outcome	CSO capacity outcomes related activities
1	Map and identify gaps in CSOs' contribution to WASH and capacity building for improved advocacy
	Capacity building of members of Resource Centre Network
	 Strengthen communities' and citizens' capacity to engage duty bearers and demand improved services
	 Capacity building of journalists on field reporting (reaching out to communities and amplifying citizens' voices on state of service delivery)
2	 Assist CSOs in formulating their WASH needs and demanding improved WASH service provision, by means of stakeholder mapping and participatory baseline studies of access to WASH in target communities using scorecard methodology
	 Map user satisfaction levels and identify main issues in inclusive and responsive WASH service delivery (e.g., gender analysis)
	Train local CSOs in management, engagement, negotiation and sustainability
	 Strengthen NGOs' and CBOs' capacity on rights to water to engage duty bearers and demand for improved services at district level
	Train people in use of Akvo DASH to elaborate analysis and outcomes that can be used to influence parliament, and transmit analysis via radio

Country lobbying and advocacy for governments to plan, implement and monitor WASH and IWRM regulations:

Outcome	Lobbying and advocacy outcomes related activities
3	 Lobbying and advocacy on budgets: tracking public expenditure, conducting analysis in selected districts and at national level Bring data on costs, functionality and coverage, and user satisfaction (ecosystems, IWRM) together in Akvo DASH for cross-analysis and recommendations
4	 Lobbying and advocacy on WASH prioritisation and behaviour change processes through local TV and radio programmes Support CONIWAS in developing user satisfaction surveys to measure perceived quality of service and identify needed improvements. Enable and support of mobile data collection in user satisfaction and stakeholder mapping (Akvo FLOW) Develop concept of bringing data together in Akvo DASH for analysis and translating data into messages for lobbying and advocacy (based on analysis-output needs and opportunities of Akvo DASH) Support NGO annual lobbying and advocacy platform, Mole conference, for influencing decision-makers to prioritise WASH financing for SDGs
5	 Improve responsiveness of government, private sector and other duty bearers to demands of CSOs by creating citizen and district dialogue and coordination platforms; training local governments in data collection, data analysis and planning tools; engaging media, organising policy dialogues and assisting government with local development plans

Cross-cutting: Capacity building, lobbying and advocacy

Outcome	Cross-cutting: Capacity building, lobbying and advocacy related activities
15	 Engagement and evidence-based documentation for influencing WASH advocacy targets at district, regional and national levels Support CONIWAS members in communication by bringing their activities online (Akvo RSR) and make them visible on CONIWAS website. Train trainers of CONIWAS and key members in administrating of Akvo RSR, and support CONIWAS members in how to use Akvo RSR for lobbying and advocacy. Data collection, processing and sharing to provide evidence for advocacy (as well as for planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning), using tools and methods from programme partners
16	Engage citizens in IWRM through support to Ghana Water Resources Commission and CONIWAS members
17	See outcomes 2 and 3

Mali work package

Programme management. Wetlands International is leading in Mali, with the involvement of IRC Burkina Faso country director and Akvo.

Context and strategy

Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world. Almost one-third of its 15 million people lack access to safe water, and almost four-fifths, or 11 million people, are without access to adequate sanitation facilities. More than 15,000 children die every year from diarrhoea. There have been some improvements in urban areas, but rural and peri-urban areas lag behind.

Mali is a water-scarce country with large areas receiving limited rainfall and others reliant on natural water resources such as the Niger River, directly for water or through groundwater recharge. Planned investments will make dramatic changes to the regime, quantity and quality of natural water resources. Mali's dry climate is predicted to change with higher temperatures, and rainfall has already decreased in the past few decades. Combined with increased water demand for agriculture and energy security, the likely net effect is less available freshwater for water supply, and water of poorer quality. These changes are likely to affect the sustainability of existing WASH infrastructure.

Civil society in Mali is critically important in the delivery of WASH, playing a greater role than the government. However, WASH NGOs have limited engagement with the government on WASH, let alone water policy and related issues, such as planned infrastructure (dams), with consequences for WASH delivery and sustainability. Participation of marginalised groups in decision-making for WASH and natural resources management is low. Such groups include migrant fishermen and herders in the Inner Niger Delta, marginalised communities in and around medium and big cities, and women, who are often responsible for water collection and for caring for ill dependents (many of them suffering from water-borne diseases). During weak flooding years, existing and planned dams would take almost half of the river discharge, diminishing the self-purification capacity of the river. Consequently, the water delivered to big and medium cities—where people who are the most vulnerable to water management decisions upstream—has high pollutant loads.

Our ambition in Mali is that government WASH policy and its implementation, with a focus on the Upper Niger and Inner Niger Delta, be guided by a knowledge-based understanding of service delivery. Government water resource policy and implementation should ensure that WASH provision in rural areas is inclusive, ecosystem-smart and sustainable, and quality data on WASH and water security should be accessible to underpin CSO lobbying and advocacy. Private sector actors relevant to WASH and IWRM in Mali include industries located along the Niger River, water and energy companies, and private WASH providers and construction companies.

Data on WASH service quality and governance in Mali have not yet been compared with information on water security, which Wetlands International is gathering, and there may be gaps. Based on an analysis of available data and potential gaps, Wetlands International will consider how WASH relates to IWRM and the ecosystem-level landscape in Mali; use methodologies from IRC to analyse policy commitments vs. budget allocations; and train CSOs in using Akvo's techniques and tools for data collection to support the evidence base for advocacy.

Priority activities for year 1, by outcome

Country capacity building for competent CSOs and their networks to lobby effectively

Outcome	CSO capacity outcomes related activities							
1	 Strengthen linkages and relationships amongst CSOs and networks to tackle WASH and water security in Mali, and link to regional and supranational level Support CSOs in outreach to media on WASH and water security, and in communicating important messages in support of advocacy objectives 							
2	Analyse CSO capacity (current status and needs) for advocacy on improved WASH governance, and establish goals and action plan. This is likely to include building WASH sector capacity (CSOs and other stakeholders) by building awareness of FIETS principles related to integrated management of WASH services, and how this relates to roles and responsibilities for WASH governance, how water resource pollution and ecosystem degradation affect human health, economic development and livelihoods, and how the current regulatory framework addresses WASH							

Country lobbying and advocacy for governments to plan, implement and monitor WASH and IWRM regulations:

Outcome	Lobbying and advocacy outcomes related activities							
3	 Budget tracking and monitoring of both CSO and government WASH spending will promote responsible use of resources, increase effectiveness of investments and improve accountability 							
4	 Build partnership with CN- CIEPA/WASH and CAEPHA and FONGIN and other networks, developing joint work plan covering WASH service delivery indicators, human rights, water policy and water security, and effects of agricultural and industrial development on WASH National WASH policies are law code on water, national water policy, national sanitation policy, national strategy of solid and liquid waste management, rainwater management strategy, and national wetlands policy and its interaction with issues WASH 							
5	Co-development of campaign on key messages for WASH and sustainable water resource management in Upper Niger and Inner Niger Delta							

Cross-cutting: Capacity building, lobbying and advocacy

Outcome	Cross-cutting: Capacity building, lobbying and advocacy related activities							
15	 More knowledge and tools are needed for evidence-based arguments. Map CSOs, actions and sphere of influence in WASH delivery in Upper Niger and Inner Niger Delta against water security issues (e.g., flooding and drought); improve accessibility of WASH data and define indicators for data collection; and fill knowledge gaps (e.g., undertake studies on service delivery indicators, and relation between floods and droughts and incidence of water-borne diseases) Data collection, processing and sharing to provide evidence for advocacy (and for planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning), using tools and methods from programme partners 							
16	 Assess likely water resource development scenarios and implications for current and planned WASH strategies and use results to develop civil society capacity and government awareness 							
17	 Ensure inclusion throughout (cutting across all outcomes) Representing most vulnerable and bringing their voice into dialogues and consultation frameworks to access to and control of WASH resources 							

The Netherlands work package

Programme management. Simavi will be leading in the Netherlands, with support from IRC, Akvo and Wetlands.

Context and strategy

'Ten years ago, we set ourselves a target, and we gave 30 million poor people safe water and 50 million people clean toilets. Today, I am doing it again; I am setting another target. Let's do another 30 and another 50'. With these words, spoken at the Global Citizen 2015 Earth Day celebrations in Washington, DC, Minister Ploumen announced the Netherlands government's new commitment to water and sanitation needs. It will be a cornerstone for the WASH IT! activities in the Netherlands.

Water is one of the eight focus areas of the current Dutch development policy, and WASH is a major pillar of this focus area. The Netherlands has recognised the human right to water and sanitation since 2010²². Five standards of this right are availability, affordability, quality, acceptability and accessibility²³. The proposed SDGs also aim to achieve universal access to safe and affordable water supply and adequate sanitation. It is thus not a matter of whether WASH services are to be provided, but rather how.

The Minister appropriately targets more people for sanitation than for water, as that is where the gaps are biggest. The human right to water calls for its progressive realisation and reduction of inequalities. For water supply, this means, above all, raising access levels in rural areas to parallel those now found in urban areas. Of people without access, 90 percent live in rural areas. For sanitation, this means, above all, targeting action according to poverty levels and focusing on the poorest parts of the population, in both urban and rural settings.

Sustainable access to WASH services cannot be achieved without sustainable water resources, and vice versa. If rivers dry up or groundwater levels go down, the water systems that depend on them will fail. And if sanitation systems are developed without adequate treatment, disposal, and often reuse, of waste, recipient water bodies become polluted. The WASH commitment must be therefore realised in a framework of integrated water resources management.

The IOB evaluation²⁴ of Dutch aid considered the quality and sustainability of water and sanitation services. There are many sad statistics²⁵ in the sector: one in three hand pumps in Africa is not functioning at any given moment in time²⁶; the quality of water supplies is such that many lack access to safe water²⁷, and people resort to open defecation if toilets are not maintained. In response, the Netherlands has been a front-runner in promoting sustainability by requiring recipients of Dutch development cooperation for WASH to ensure that facilities keep on providing good services for at least 10 years.

²² Amnesty and WASH United. 2014. Recognition of the human rights to water and sanitation by UN Member States at the international level. p83

²³ End Water Poverty, Position paper for SDG 6: Make water and sanitation rights a reality, 2014

²⁴ IOB. 2013. Van infrastructuur naar duurzame impact: beleidsdoorlichting van de Nederlandse bijdrage aan drinkwater en sanitaire voorzieningen (1990-2011). Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken

²⁵ Improve International. 2014. Sad stats. Statistics on water point failures

²⁶ RWSN. 2010. Myths of the Rural Water Supply Sector. RWSN Perspective No 4. Rural Water Supply Network: St aGallen

²⁷ Onda, K., LoBuglio, J. and J. Jamie Bartram. 2012. Global Access to Safe Water: Accounting for Water Quality and the Resulting Impact on MDG Progress. In: *Int. J. Environ. Res. Public Health*: 9, 880-894

A worrying trend is that the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the parliament are shifting their attention from WASH to water management. This started with the recommendations from the Wetenschappelijk Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid to focus more on economic sectors in development cooperation²⁸ and the inception of the 'Topsector Water'. The Dutch Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment, Melanie Schultz, is playing an increasingly important role on the international level—for example, in the Water Global Practice of the World Bank and the Water Governance task force of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. She predominantly promotes the issues of water governance and disaster risk reduction abroad (the trade agenda) and is less aware of the WASH commitments and the importance of pro-poor approaches (aid). Therefore, in addition to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment, the Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Netherlands Water Partnership, other WASH NGOs, water utilities and private sector partners will be targeted by the WASH IT! partners to ensure prioritisation of WASH in Dutch foreign policy.

The main lobbying and advocacy messages will aim to ensure the following:

- That the Dutch government dedicate sufficient financial resources to meet its commitment to reach 50 million with sanitation and 30 million people with water in a sustainable and equitable manner
- That increased importance be given to the link with health through sanitation and hygiene in Dutch international water policy
- That DGIS develop sound policy and strategies for sustainable WASH service delivery, including the link with health through sanitation and hygiene in international water policy and with emphasis on sustainability of services, targeting of efforts towards the poor, linkages between WASH and IWRM, WASH governance, an enabling environment and financing mechanisms
- That DGIS be accountable for its performance in sustainable WASH service delivery, directly and indirectly via parliament, on budgeting for WASH, targeting of efforts towards poor and marginalised groups, compliance with aid effectiveness principles, support for the standards of the human right to water and sanitation and the SDGs, strengthening governance and creating an enabling environment for WASH
- That international good practices and innovative approaches are promoted by Dutch WASH sector organisations (other NGOs, utilities and water boards, consultancy firms)

Priority activities for year 1, by outcome

Lobbying and advocacy of CSOs towards the Dutch government to actively support the achievement of the human right to water and sanitation, and compliance with aid effectiveness principles

Outcome	Lobbying and advocacy outcomes related activities
6	 Dutch government dedicates sufficient financial resources to meet its commitment to reach 50 million and 30 million people with WASH by 2030 in sustainable and equitable manner Stakeholder mapping of Dutch actors influencing WASH policy and financing Ensure that Dutch government has communicated clear strategy how to implement its new WASH 30/50 commitment by Q1 of 2016, including targets for marginalised groups Providing inputs to annual parliamentary cycle (budgeting, preparation of BuHAOS meetings, review of annual reports) Track and comment on DGIS budget
7	 Monthly 'keukentafeloverleg' with DGIS on WASH and water Drafting of notes and memos on policy and strategy for DGIS

²⁸ WRR. 2010 Minder pretentie, meer ambitie: ontwikkelingshulp die verschil maakt. Wetenschappelijke Raad voor het Regeringsbeleid.

	Debates in parliament, meetings with parliamentarians, around speerpunt water
8	 DGIS provides accountability for its performance in sustainable WASH delivery and compliance with aid effectiveness principles in WASH sector Provide inputs to annual parliamentary cycle (budgeting, preparation of BuHAOS meetings, review of annual reports) Lobby members of parliament Engage with DGIS on Sanitation and Water for All, joint preparation of steering committee meetings, task forces and high-level meetings
9	Netherlands WASH sector organisations (particularly NGOs, including ourselves, utilities, water boards and others) adopt innovative approaches to meeting WASH SDGs Organise thematic events, for sharing and debate on current issues of relevance for Dutch WASH sector organisations

International work package

Programme management. IRC will be leading the international-level activities in close collaboration with Wetlands, Akvo and Simavi.

Context

Getting development partners to shift from project-based approaches to programmes remains a challenge. Funding governance, capacity strengthening of CSOs and lobbying and advocacy are problematic.

In 2013, more than 85 percent of water and sanitation aid was delivered as project-type interventions, the sector remains highly fragmented, and alignment behind strong country systems has been limited. Adoption of more effective modalities, such as sector-wide approaches and multi-donor trust funds, has been slower for WASH than for other sectors, such as health and education.

The overwhelming **systemic challenges** mean that business as usual will not be sufficient to reach everyone with sustainable WASH services:

Growing populations. Over the next 15 years the world's population is expected to grow by more than 1 billion people, nearly all of whom will be in developing countries and half in Africa²⁹. More services will need to be provided, for both this growing population and those currently without access.

Inequalities in access to WASH services. Despite calls to action, it is increasingly clear that the bottom of the pyramid is not benefitting proportionally to increased investment in WASH systems. With the notable exceptions of Bangladesh and Thailand, most countries still face large inequalities, driven by a combination of failure to allocate funds to follow demand, and poor governance practices. It is increasingly recognised that piped water systems are poorly governed in many cities. High connection fees prevent the poor and disadvantaged from taking advantage of the service, and high subsidies to those who are connected result in disproportionate subsidies benefitting those who are already better off.

Practical implementation. The human right to water and sanitation was recognised by the United Nations General Assembly in July 2010 and by its Human Rights Council in September 2010. Five years on, the number of countries that specify water as a human right in their constitutions or national legislation is growing: two-thirds of the 94 countries surveyed by the

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²⁹ UN Population Division data

WHO recognise drinking water and sanitation as a human right, and 80 percent have national policies on water and sanitation. Still, a gap remains between legislation and practice, and universal access to sanitation is unlikely to occur in the next 15 years³⁰.

Financing shortfalls. Closing the 2030 universal service delivery gap will require countries to draw on a variety of financing sources³¹. Basic services, including WASH, will increasingly need to be provided by domestic institutions through a combination of public, private and household finance.

Monitoring of finances to WASH. It is increasingly clear that information on successful approaches, costs of implementation and needs are vital for reducing inequalities and achieving universal access by 2030. The GLAAS report found that most decisions in the sector are not evidence-based because of low capacity for monitoring, data collection and analysis³². Thus governments are unable to determine whether funding is reaching areas with the greatest needs, and whether they are meeting funding allocation targets, such as the e-Thekwini declaration and the SWA-High Level Pannel commitments. The latest SWA-HLP progress report finds that financial commitments to tracking and allocation have made very slow progress (SWA-HLP, 2015).

Sustainability crisis. Currently, around a third of rural water systems fail within 10 years, and only 9 percent of urban utilities cover even the costs of operation and maintenance³³. To ensure lasting and permanent access to WASH, we need to move towards sustainable service delivery models.

Rapid urbanisation. Cities effectively export water consumption by importing water-intensive goods, food and services. Meanwhile, 90 percent of wastewater in developing countries is not collected or treated, resulting in polluted waters in cities as well as downstream, exacerbating water scarcity (WWAP, 2015). Informal settlements are especially vulnerable to the consequences of limited and polluted water, with poor infrastructure and little investment in services.

Competing uses for water. Currently, agriculture is responsible for 70 percent of water withdrawals worldwide and up to 90 percent in the least-developed countries. By 2050, agricultural production needs to increase by 60 percent globally, and double in developing countries, to meet expanding demand. Without reductions in water losses and improved crop utilisation of water, such increases in agricultural yields will pose substantial challenges and may increase vulnerability to drought and depletion in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa³⁴.

Climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects greater variability in rainfall and higher frequencies of extreme events such as floods and droughts, with wet areas getting wetter and dry areas drier³⁵. These changes have high social, environmental and economic costs, particularly in developing regions that lack the physical and social infrastructure to mitigate the effects of climate change. The urban poor are especially vulnerable

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³⁰ World Health Organization (WHO) and UN-Water, 2014a. UN-Water global analysis and assessment of sanitation and drinking-water (GLAAS) 2014 – report. Investing in water and sanitation: increasing access, reducing inequalities ³¹ WSP forthcoming

³² Ibid.

³⁴ WWAP, 2014. The United Nations World Water Development Report 2014: Water and Energy [pdf] Paris: UNESCO 35 IPCC, 2013. Summary for Policymakers. In: Climate Change 2013: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

to the harmful effects of climate change, as they often live in densely populated and disaster-prone areas³⁶.

Addressing these systemic challenges requires changes in practice by both developing countries and their development partners. Without such changes, the SDG targets of universal access to water and sanitation by 2030 will remain out of reach.

At the international level, the following trends are **opportunities** that shape the role to be played by (inter)national civil society:

New context. The SDGs' focus on universality, water safety, affordability and equity, as well as the link between WASH and water resources management, is likely to lead to new standards and approaches to WASH. Additionally, climate change and links to the broader environmental agenda may contribute to momentum for WASH as efforts to reduce environmental pollution and mitigate extreme weather events lead to increasing focus on waste in waterways. An overall reduction of water pollution will have the side effect of improving drinking water quality.

New donors and actors. Sovereign wealth funds, water funds and new international development banks and multilateral donors, such as the BRICS Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, provide new opportunities for funding large WASH infrastructure in urban areas³⁷. Other official flows³⁸ to the WASH sector have increased from US\$803 million in 2003 to US\$2.2 billion in 2013. Multilateral institutions are responsible for most other official flows to the sector, with the largest provider being the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), which provided on average US\$1.2 billion over 2011–2013. Development assistance from non-DAC donors is rising fast, but data are difficult to obtain³⁹.

Business and trade relationships. The Government of the Netherlands aims to move from an aid to trade relationship with a growing number of countries. While low-income countries such as Mozambique and Ethiopia will mainly receive support to reduce poverty, Ghana and Indonesia will see aid phased out⁴⁰. A larger part of the water budgets goes to sub-sectors where there is more scope for private sector participation (e.g., in urban WASH and flood management) or sectors that contribute directly to economic development (e.g., irrigation). However, this approach varies by country and context and will probably not have a noticeable effect until after 2020.

Financing innovations. Of the three Ts-tariffs, taxes and transfers—to finance WASH services, the WASH sector has focused on transfers, or aid, and has lobbied countries to commit to 0.7 percent of GDP to aid. Even that would provide only a small percentage of the overall financial needs of the sector, however, leaving a large financing gap that will make the SDG of universal access unattainable. Growing the share that comes from taxes, as in the developed world, is unlikely to create the surge in investment needed to meet the SDGs. Many utilities in low- and middle-income countries have difficulty accessing loans to make long-term investments because banks and other debt providers consider the financing too risky. The result is either no lending

³⁶ WWAP, 2014. The United Nations World Water Development Report 2014: Water and Energy [pdf] Paris: UNESCO 37 World Water Council and OECD, 2015. Water: Fit to Finance? Catalyzing National Growth Through Investment in Water Security. April 2015. Marseille, France: World Water Council.

³⁸ Defined by Wateraid, 2015 as "loans made by donors to the private and public sector in developing countries. OOFs are distinguished from ODA because they do not meet the concessionality criteria to be classified as ODA." 39 WaterAid, 2015. Essential element: Why international aid for water, sanitation and hygiene is still a critical source of finance for many countries. July 2015.

⁴⁰ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2013), A World to Gain, A New Agenda for Aid, Trade and Investment, April, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague.

or high interest rates (above 14 percent) and short payback periods (three to seven years). The loans are considered risky because the utilities often do not have an appropriate credit rating or track record in borrowing and often can provide only limited guarantees that the debt service (interest and loan repayment) can be paid back over a long period of time. Thus the sector needs to develop alternative WASH financing vehicles and explore different models adapted to different contexts.

Strategy

International civil society lobbying and advocacy networks in WASH (WASH Advocates, End Water Poverty) are chronically underfunded and typically dominated by one or two major actors (e.g., WaterAid, Oxfam). As a result they are often largely ignored in global and regional fora (e.g., SWA, UNICEF, WHO JMP) dominated by the UN and the World Bank. Additionally, the space for civil society in the global South is under constant threat—witness recent developments in Ethiopia and India.

WASH IT!'s international work will seek to address these challenges by bringing additional voices from international and national CSOs to the table through membership and engagement with existing networks, and by strengthening the capacity of other organisations through training and the provision of high-quality materials.

The international-level work will address three linked elements:

- Active engagement by consortium partners in lobbying and advocacy for WASH IT! goals in the international arena, at both global (e.g. UN, WBCSD) and regional (e.g., AMCOW) levels
- Training on lobbying and advocacy for CSOs not present in WASH IT! focus countries (to be decided based on opportunities)
- Production of high-quality, evidence-based lobbying and advocacy materials (campaigning materials; lessons learnt, newsletters)

The WASH IT! consortium will develop an integrated lobbying and advocacy strategy at the global level, consisting of coordinated efforts by the partners to reach common advocacy objectives. This will be defined during the inception phase. Potential contributions to an overall plan have been tentatively identified by the partners, pending the development of a joint strategy, and are outlined below.

The international work package also includes capacity building, communication and other lobbying activities that bring knowledge developed at the country level to the international level. That is, the international work package will provide the space and the platforms for the voice of country organisations to be heard. We will centralise in the different consortium headquarters the more general tool development, advocacy and training materials, communication products that will be used not only in the WASH IT! countries but also applied by other organisations in other countries outside the consortium. We will also seek synergies and funding for other countries where the consortium organisations are based that are not part of the WASH IT! grant. Therefore it is not possible to allocate at this design stage part of the budget to the specific WASH IT! countries and potential user countries.

IRC will advocate for the need to increase in public expenditure and reduction of inequalities in key sector networks and platforms: SWA (IRC in country processes task team), GLAAS report/TrackFin innitiative (IRC in the technical advisory committee), End Water Poverty (IRC in the steering committee) and UN-Water and via the Special Raporteur for Human Rights on water and sanitation (IRC in the informal advisory team consultations).

Simavi will advocate for sufficient and better-targeted funding for WASH at the EU level (EC and EIB), in SWA (Simavi is CSO focal point in the Netherlands), in End Water Poverty (Simavi is convenor of Europe task team and active in SDG task team) and the participation of NGOs in the post-2015 monitoring agenda and inclusion of targets on WASH in schools and health centres through End Water Poverty, GEMI-initiative and UN Statistical Committee.

Akvo will contribute to the UN Habitat and WHO-Water GEMI, providing evidence of feasibility and measurability of targets under a global water and sanitation goal, align data collection and reporting, and support the exchange of learning on lobbying and advocacy towards the SDGs between the WASH IT! countries and the international platforms.

Wetlands will lobby for placing sustainable WASH in the broader context of IWRM by making explicit the critical links between the drinking water and sanitation targets, other targets under the water SDG, and the targets of other SDGs related to water (SDGs 3, 11, 12 and 15) and those that indirectly contribute to achievement of sustainable WASH, including efficiency of water use in agriculture, sustainable use and restoration of ecosystems, combating climate change effects on water resources, and reducing social and gender inequality.

Priority activities year 1, by outcome

International capacity building

Outcome	CSO capacity outcomes related activities							
10	 Capacity building for global CSOs networks to engage effectively with multi- and bilateral donors and global business community: Assess and map existing capacities at global CSO level Support and collaborate with other civil society organisations active at international level, particularly with other strategic partnerships on water Support and develop activities jointly with European and North American platforms: WASH Advocates, Millennium Water Alliance, End Water Poverty, etc. 							
11	CSOs engage effectively with regional inter-governmental processes and networks: • Co-organise training sessions at sector events on lobbying and advocacy tools in sector; take advantage of international and regional fora (e.g., WWW, UNC, Africasan and Sacosan) to run lobbying and advocacy workshops for CSOs							

International lobbying and advocacy

international lobbying and advocacy							
Outcome	Lobbying and advocacy outcomes related activities						
12	 Global focus on WASH, human rights and equity in SDGs is maintained; 2030 targets are adopted and financed: Advocate for increase in public expenditure for sustainable WASH at EU level and in k sector networks and platforms: SWA, UN-Water/GEMI, GLAAS/TrackFin, End Water Poverty, GMI Active engagement with business networks 						
13	Rollout of SDGs is undertaken using integrated thinking on WASH and water: • Make explicit critical links with other targets within Goal 6 on ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, as well as between drinking water and sanitation targets, and other water related targets under other goals (including 3.3, water-borne diseases; 3.9, water pollution and contamination; 11.5, water-related disasters; 12.4, management of wastes; 15.1, freshwater ecosystems; and 15.8, alien invasives and ecosystems)						
14	 Need for civil society voice in negotiations on IWRM and WASH investments recognised: Global CSO networks (e.g., EWP; MWA; RWSN) engage effectively with multi- and bilateral donors and global business community (e.g., WBCSD) Regional and national CSO networks engage effectively with regional intergovernmental networks and processes (e.g., AMCOW, river basin fora) 						

Cross-cutting: Capacity building, lobbying and advocacy

Outcome	Cross-cutting: Capacity building, lobbying and advocacy related activities
15	 WASH IT! will provide sector news service that focuses on achievement of human right to water, equity and involvement of civil society in IWRM Advocate for need for transparent data and IATI standards that allow tracking expenditure for WASH at international and national levels WASH IT! will develop high-quality lobbying and advocacy materials based on experiences in focus countries Data collection, processing and sharing to provide evidence for advocacy (as well as for planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning) done with tools and methods from programme partners
16	 Mapping key donors, organisations, platforms and policies to influence at international, regional and national levels and leading advocacy and dialogue for environmentally sustainable WASH via key networks (Ramsar Convention and UNCCD, our engagement with EU Environment, Devco, ECHO and Climate, via membership of PEDDR, as an advisor and member of Clinton Global Initiative, partner in WBCSD Natural Infrastructure initiative and via numerous NGO and private sector partnerships concerning water and IWRM nationally and globally) Enable effective connection with strategic partnership Partners for Resilience in Netherlands and in countries of overlap via focal points in GGI, Water Group in DGIS and via embassies
17	See outcome 13. Equity and rights of poor are central in SDG dialogue and action

Planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning work package

Programme management. Akvo will be leading the planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning activities in close collaboration with Wetlands, IRC and Simavi.

The purpose of the **planning**, **monitoring**, **evaluation** and **learning** framework is to provide insight into the outcomes that we achieve, so that we can adjust the theory of change for more **effectiveness**. The framework also provides **accountability** to a larger audience, including the Ministry.

Our programme management cycle starts with strategic planning based on the theory of change. For each outcome of the theory of change, we will analyse context-specific factors for intervention in the countries selected: stakeholder power relations, prioritisation of laws and policies, and the most suitable social accountability tools. In addition, we will set SMART objectives and intermediate milestones for outputs, outcomes and impact. Planning will be feasible for most planned interventions; however, we will remain flexible to respond to unforeseen opportunities that may arise from partnerships with the Ministry and others.

The consortium will ensure that the activities in this work package meet quality standards and that information is reliable, timely and complete.

Monitoring lobbying and advocacy

Communities and governments **differ widely** across countries, as do their needs for capacity building. The planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning system needs to account for such diversities. Furthermore, capacity-building interventions need to be **informed by experience** and developed as they go along. This necessitates a monitoring framework that allows for **adaptation** to changing conditions.

Learning

Lobbying and advocacy programmes are intrinsically dynamic and evolve through continuous adaptation of activities based on learning. A learning agenda will be an integral part of the framework; the programme approach will be participatory, involving the stakeholders who contribute to the outcomes⁴¹ at community, district, national and international levels. The learnings and verification of assumptions will continuously feed back into the programmes and influence strategies being adopted. The planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning activities will be **conducted jointly** and **reviewed** by all four partners as well as by the CSOs in the countries.

Approach to planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning

The theory of change informs the planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning framework. Because of the complex nature of the programme, we aim to optimise the methodology for planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning. We have set out the following **principles** before deciding on the methodology:

- **Actors are at the centre** of the approach, so the methodology must support a participatory approach, be validated by (external) stakeholders and be useful to the actors.
- The methodology allows for understanding and tracking **complex linkages and influences** yet is lightweight and applied to the context rather than using a method per se.

⁴¹ *Outcome* is defined as a change in the behaviour, relationships, actions, activities, policies or practices of an individual, group, community, organisation or institution.

- Reality often differs from what was expected and assumptions can prove incorrect, especially over a five-year period. The methodology needs to support **flexibility**.
- The methodology must support long-term monitoring of change.
- It must support **knowledge sharing** between and within partners and countries.

The planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning approach in WASH IT! will have two phases.

Inception phase

- **Define baseline information** required for the initial assessments, evidence-based advocacy and monitoring of progress. Baseline findings will also help define the planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning design (see next section)
- Create planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning framework, through a participatory approach, resulting in final approach, indicators and governance structure
- Analyse capacity of partners
- Prepare for planning, methodology choice and tool development and set-up
- **Develop planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning toolkit** with information packs, tool descriptions and training materials to guide effective monitoring

Implementation phase

- Train and build capacity of the partners in planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning
- **Perform studies of** CSOs' capacity and baseline study⁴² on WASH services, feeding into an evidence base for lobbying and advocacy
- **Share monitoring, evaluation and learning** materials in periodic workshops to disseminate, learn and follow up (e.g., review plans) at various levels, including in programme management

Baseline information

- Assessment, mapping and analysis of WASH and ecosystem services (coverage, service levels, infrastructure, user satisfaction, user profiles) with focus on gender, excluded and vulnerable communities.
 - Sources: primary data mapping of intervention areas and secondary data (country and district census data, household surveys, district and national level sector assessments, evaluation reports, wealth data, etc.).
- Stakeholder and capacity assessment and analysis of civil society institutions (NGOs, CSOs, networks), service authorities and service providers (government departments, committees, utilities, boards, private providers), basin-level stakeholders (regulatory bodies at national and regional level, users of resources), private sector stakeholders (private finance, entrepreneurs, companies) and donors (multilaterals, bilaterals, international finance institutions).
 - Sources: Secondary data (country data, WASH directories, bilaterals and multilaterals, NGOs, CSOs, WASH networks).
- Collection and analysis of existing budget information related to WASH services (expenditure on capital and recurrent investments from stakeholders identified above). Sources: Primary and secondary data sources.

The specific baseline information to be collected and analysed is to be further detailed. Progress data collected will be used to influence and adapt pathways of change in the project. Where possible, baseline data will be shared publicly using an 'open unless' policy. This information is needed for most of the outcomes of most work packages in the first year, to define lobbying and advocacy and capacity objectives, and therefore is necessary beyond planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning.

 $^{^{\}rm 42}$ Note that depending on the methodology chosen, a baseline study may not be required.

Tooling

The planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning framework will be designed to track, measure, analyse, document and share learning processes and achievement of the listed outcomes. A combination of **quantitative and qualitative tools** will be used:

- **Quantitative data collection** will be done with Akvo FLOW⁴³. Past experiences with the monitoring of WASH services with the mobile data collection tool Akvo FLOW have been positive, and the same can be done to build evidence on service delivery for lobbying and advocacy. A new feature in Akvo FLOW allows for tailored web-based data collection, as successfully piloted in the Dutch WASH Alliance programme.
- Qualitative data collection will be approached in a flexible way and used for monitoring the outcomes achieved, their significance, the contribution made by WASH IT! and for verifying these data. Where possible, data will be collected or recorded digitally at the source and processes, according to the chosen approach (e.g., qualitative information system and qualitative document analysis; Box 2).

Box 2: Qualitative information system (QIS) and Qualitative document analysis (QDA)

Qualitative information system (QIS) was developed by IRC and WSP in the late 1990s to measure impacts (changes in behaviour and practices) and outcomes (changes in performance) that result from qualitative processes. Qualitative information is quantified with the help of progressive scales, or 'ladders'. Each step on the ladder represents a condition or situation, and each step receives a score. Scoring is done jointly with respondents using participatory methods. The scale is built with four characteristics and ranges from the absence of the particular indicator at the lowest level (0) to the optimal situation at the highest level (4). This method's value is in analysing and visualizing progressive improvements at various scales, ranging from household to regional level. Improvements in qualitative indicators can be visualised as a development ladder for community, donors, programs or entire sector. It can also be used to analyse investment results over time and promote learning on what does or does not work. This method also gives participants instant feedback on outcomes, which should stimulate behaviour change. IRC has used QIS at scale for tracking behavioural change in BRAC WASH programmes. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation conducted an independent evaluation comparing QIS with quantitative methods and concluded that QIS was more accurate.

Qualitative document analysis (QDA) is a method of assessing documents in a rigorous and reliable manner through systematic analysis of the treatment of particular themes or issues44 (Altheide, 1996; Wesley, 2011). The international work stream of the IRC-led programme Triple-S conducted QDA on a selected group of development partners' policy, strategy and guideline documents to understand the extent to which these documents incorporated the building blocks of a service delivery approach. This enabled Triple-S to establish a 'baseline' of sector policy pre-2008, for comparison with future policy changes, as a way to monitor adoption of the concept.

⁴³ For more information on Akvo FLOW, see: http://akvo.org/products/akvoflow/

⁴⁴ Wesley, J. 2011. 'Observing the Political World: Quantitative and Qualitative Approaches In Explorations: A Navigator's Guide to Research' in Canadian Political Science, Edited by Archer, K. and L. Berdahl. 2nd Ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press and Altheide, D. 1996. 'Process of Qualitative Document Analysis' in Qualitative Media Analysis, Newbury Park, CA: SAGE.

- **Data interpretation.** In 2015 and 2016, Akvo will implement a new data analysis and visualisation tool, Akvo DASH⁴⁵. It will use monitoring and evaluation data to draw conclusions and learn from the progress on results.
- Learning using a knowledge base. Web-based tools will be applied to structure the sharing of raw data, information and knowledge to support learning and adaptation of the programme. How this will exactly be approached will depend upon the needs defined in the inception phase. Akvo can provide a flexible website template to allow for online sharing of any kind of digital content using 'Akvo Sites'.
- **Project sharing and IATI**. Open data sharing is an important part of the strategic partnership's responsibility towards DGIS. IATI⁴⁶ is the tool for this. To put IATI to use for the WASH IT! programme, Akvo RSR⁴⁷ will be used to share project details, including results and paperless reporting (according to a DGIS format still to be established), online. This will automatically fulfil the IATI reporting compliance requirement.
- Planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning toolkit as mentioned above.

Because of the nature of the programme, qualitative data will play a big role. Documenting qualitative data will help to support evidence collection, guide programme activities, serve for transparency and make comparisons with the past. Although Akvo tools are known for managing quantitative data, there are ample possibilities to manage qualitative data: free text questions in Akvo FLOW, option questions in FLOW to support easy scoring of qualitative data, collection and processing of stories, patterns and multi-media materials like photos and videos with FLOW or RSR updates.

Akvo has extensive experience with quality data collection and will seek opportunities to quantify qualitative data (e.g., convert opinions to scores) to ease analysis. In addition to the above, readily available tools such as web forms, web folders and multi-media and/or social media platforms will be utilised to support the chosen planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning methodologies. The result will be that data are stored and managed in a structured way to support the programme.

Evaluations

Evaluations will reflect on milestones and progress on programme objectives. This includes measuring outputs, outcomes and impact (see theory of change). Mid-term evaluations will be used to improve performance. The final evaluation will evaluate impact, effectiveness, efficiency and inclusiveness of the programme and will be conducted by a competent external agency selected by open tendering.

⁴⁵ For the announcement of Akvo DASH, see http://akvo.org/blog/conrad-n-hilton-foundation-awards-750000-for-akvo-dash/.

⁴⁶ See this webinar by Partos and Akvo to understand the why, what, why, who and where of IATI: https://vimeo.com/125136445.

⁴⁷ for more information on Akvo Really Simple Reporting (RSR), see http://akvo.org/products/rsr/.

Fundraising and leverage work package

The broad ambitions of the WASH IT! programme and the huge challenge of achieving the SDGs are such that the currently committed DGIS funding will be insufficient to meet them. For example, the partners want to expand to full programming in India, Bangladesh, Mali and Ghana and add additional countries. Five years is also insufficient time to drive the sort of change on service delivery that WASH IT! seeks to achieve in the long term. Hence, fundraising will be needed to ensure programme continuity beyond 2020.

To leverage the programme budget provided by DGIS, the partners have included a work package specifically dedicated to fundraising. It will be led by the institutional fundraiser for WASH from Simavi, with the participation of fundraisers from IRC, Akvo, Wetlands International and, depending on the opportunities, the local partners.

A fundraising action plan will be developed during the inception phase of the project, and updated periodically as opportunities emerge. Consortium partners, while still free to pursue their independent funding needs, make a commitment to jointly raise resources to support and expand WASH IT! goals and objectives.

A scoping and prioritisation of prospects will be the main deliverable in year 1, starting with current funders of consortium members and new funding sources that are a clear match (based on expressed interest in sustainable WASH and/or civil society capacity building for lobbying and advocacy). Sources of potential financing will include European institutional funds (EC such as Horizon 2020, other European government development programmes, such as DANIDA, DFID, and SIDA, and EIB funds such as NCFF), private foundations and corporations with related interests, and Dutch government funding (public-private partnerships, country-specific allocations by Dutch embassies, other funds for civil society; while such funding cannot be strictly used as co-funding, it could provide aligned funding that complements and supports the WASH IT! agenda).

Management and coordination work package

The overall coordinator of WASH IT! is IRC. All the consortium partners take part in the management of WASH IT!

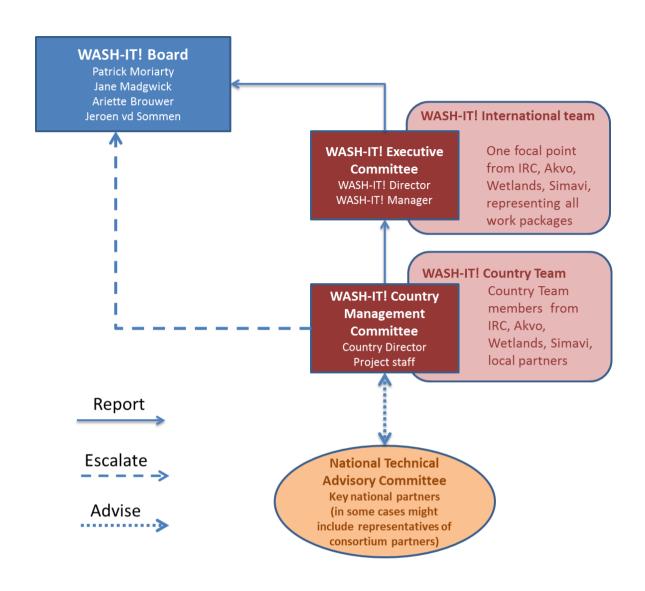
Governance objectives

- 1. To allow for effective and integrated delivery of the project in the focus countries and internationally
- 2. To allow for meaningful input from the four core consortium members in setting the project direction
- 3. To respect the agreements reached about budget share among the partners
- 4. To raise the level of ambition of WASH IT! and find additional resources and partners for replicating the approach in additional countries

Management structure

- Overall strategic, long-term planning and budgeting authority for the project sits with the Project Board. Project review will match with reporting cycles
- Budget allocation within each country and overall will respect the broad outlines is set at the international level by the Project Board.
- A project director, assisted by a project manager, will oversee day-to-day management of
 the project along the lines agreed upon by the Board. They form the Project Executive
 Committee (PEC). Operational responsibility is delegated to the PEC, so that the PEC
 remains accountable.
- In each country, project implementation will be ensured by a country director, who will be directly answerable to the project director (and through him/her to the WASH IT! Board).
- Budgets will be pooled at country level, with executive responsibility for programming, execution and reporting vested in the country director.
- The country director will be nominated by the lead partner in each country.
- The country director will be supported by a country team drawing on members (in country and internationally) from core consortium staff.
- In case of conflict or disagreement, escalation can be done first through the country director to the project director and then Project Board. If the problem is not solved, the issue may then go to the Board. In either case, the primary location for conflict resolution lies with the project director and as a last resource with the Board.
- For bringing partners and stakeholders on-board, ensuring the project is responsive of country needs and securing ownership in country, we recommend setting up a national technical advisory committee with a focus on technical aspects of WASH IT!

The WASH IT! management structure is depicted in Figure 5.



Committee	Membership				
WASH IT! Board	Chairperson: IRC CEO Membership: Wetlands CEO, Simavi CEO, Akvo CEO Project Director and Project Manager invited for meetings				
WASH IT! Executive Committee	Chairperson: Project Director Membership: Project Manager On a monthly basis the representative from each partner organisation, representing all the work packages that are not country specific				
WASH IT! Country Management Committee	Chairperson: Country Director Membership: To be drawn from project staff and, on ad hoc basis, field staff on short-term contracts				

Figure 5 WASH IT! management structure

VIII. Budget, 2016-2020

Budget Calculation

The objective of budget management in the WASH IT! consortium is to ensure accountability, transparency, effectiveness and flexibility. Overall budget responsibility lies with the consortium leader, IRC. Each consortium member is responsible for its own total share of the budget in conjunction with the country directors concerning country work packages. Budget envelopes have been agreed to secure a fair pro rata division, both vertically (between consortium members) and horizontally (between work packages).

The consortium members comply with guideline RJ640 'Organisaties zonder winststreven' and/or with guideline RJ650 'Fondsenwervende instellingen' of the Dutch Accounting Standards Board. Moreover, the organisational annual accounts of each consortium member are audited by an external accountant in compliance with the guidelines, including an opinion on the tariffs, internal systems, processes and procedures.

The WASH IT! programme requires planning for activities, milestones and outcomes. WASH IT! milestones will be formulated during the inception phase in 2016 as part of the programme implementation and are expected to be inserted in an adapted budget from 2017 onwards.

Activity-based costing method forms the starting point for the budget and planning, resulting in outcome-based reporting. Activities are structured by quantity and assigned to the respective outcome areas. The consortium believes that knowledge and research are critical to advocacy: gathering knowledge and undertaking research underpin an evidence-based approach to advocacy. All activities targeted at developing an evidence base for lobbying and advocacy activities are therefore included under 'Knowledge and Research'.

The main components of the budget are time, out-of-pocket costs (e.g., for travel, per diems, meetings), consultants and sub-grants through country presences or country partners with long-existing relationships. The consortium members apply their own costing systems as a basis for the budget and reporting. Attribution to the subsidy will be done on the basis of actual time spent. To calculate and monitor time costs, the consortium members have a fully operational time-writing system in place that quantifies the numbers of hours spent by staff and the applicable tariffs. The tariffs contain a direct component (salaries, social premiums) and an indirect component (attribution of organisational overhead costs). The tariffs are 'not-for-profit', meaning there is no profit or risk provision included in the tariffs.

The consortium members are organised and committed to a consortium agreement. In addition, a project manual will be developed specifically for the WASH IT! programme with more detailed agreements on governance, procurement, contract management, standard contract forms, accounting principles and reporting.

The budget focuses on the first year (2016) of the five-year grant period, as part of the programme implementation; years 2–5 are derivatives from year 1. An upfront investment and cash planning for the planning, monitoring, evaluation and learning work package is anticipated and therefore the budget for the first year deviates from the annual amount of EUR 3.27mio (total EUR 3.4mio). The total five-year budget evens out and remains within the ceiling (5 * EUR 3.27mio = EUR 16.35mio). The consortium expects to submit a revised budget for 2017 and onwards.

WASH IT! budget

Total WASH IT! Consortium	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	
Administration & Program Management	597,932	595,532	595,932	599,532	600,532	2,989,460	18%
Lobby & Advocacy	988,831	1,051,956	1,066,266	1,060,441	1,024,081	5,191,575	32%
Capacity Development	1,004,188	1,082,255	931,335	894,435	908,060	4,820,271	29%
Knowledge & Research (PMEL)	807,363	642,821	643,031	605,755	650,991	3,349,960	20%
Total	3,398,314	3,372,563	3,236,563	3,160,163	3,183,663	16,351,267	100%

Work Packages	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total	
WP 1 - Country 1 Uganda							
Administration & Program Management	82,794	82,794	83,294	83,794	84,794	417,471	3%
Lobby & Advocacy	153,800	157,200	161,300	162,800	151,300	786,398	5%
Capacity Development	206,680	224,180	192,180	183,180	193,180	999,398	6%
Knowledge & Research (PMEL)	119,930	128,330	151,180	132,380	101,580	633,398	4%
Sub Total	563,203	592,503	587,953	562,153	530,853	2,836,664	17%
WP 2 - Country 2 Kenya							0%
Administration & Program Management	74,921	72,521	74,921	72,521	72,521	367,407	2%
Lobby & Advocacy	148,477	137,477	136,477	137,977	132,977	693,383	4%
Capacity Development	206,774	212,274	203,274	192,274	193,774	1,008,369	6%
Knowledge & Research (PMEL)	207,310	145,960	141,310	129,010	139,710	763,298	5%
Sub Total	637,481	568,231	555,981	531,781	538,981	2,832,457	17%
WP 3 - Country 3 Mali							0%
Administration & Program Management	27,895	26,895	24,895	25,895	27,895	133,475	1%
Lobby & Advocacy	30,667	69,667	76,667	79,167	76,667	332,833	2%
Capacity Development	118,917	132,917	102,917	91,417	87,917	534,083	3%
Knowledge & Research (PMEL)	96,617	51,067	48,367	50,467	62,567	309,083	2%
Sub Total	274,095	280,545	252,845	246,945	255,045	1,309,475	8%
WP 4 - Country 4 Ghana							0%
Administration & Program Management	37,259	38,259	37,759	42,259	40,259	195,795	1%
Lobby & Advocacy	73,844	88,844	93,844	88,344	81,844	426,721	3%
Capacity Development	126,244	139,244	108,744	107,744	112,744	594,721	4%
Knowledge & Research (PMEL)	82,487	58,987	56,987	52,987	65,487	316,936	2%
Sub Total	319,835	325,335	297,335	291,335	300,335	1,534,174	9%
WP 5 - Country 5 Bangladesh							0%
Administration & Program Management	38,195	38,195	38,195	38,195	38,195	190,975	1%
Lobby & Advocacy	85,835	90,060	89,270	85,945	82,585	433,695	3%
Capacity Development	150,623	161,190	136,770	134,870	137,995	721,448	4%
Knowledge & Research (PMEL)	75,542	66,250	63,460	62,685	71,920	339,857	2%
Sub Total	350,195	355,695	327,695	321,695	330,695	1,685,975	10%
WP 6 - Country 6 India						Total	
Administration & Program Management	43,295	43,295	43,295	43,295	43,295	216,475	1%
Lobby & Advocacy	56,120	61,120	61,120	58,620	56,120	293,100	2%
Capacity Development	100,040	110,040	85,040	82,540	85,040	462,700	3%
Knowledge & Research (PMEL)	52,840	45,240	42,840	42,040	49,240	232,200	1%
Sub Total	252,295	259,695	232,295	226,495	233,695	1,204,475	7%
WP 7 - International & NL						Total	
Administration & Program Management	293,572	293,572	293,572	293,572	293,572	1,467,862	9%
Lobby & Advocacy	440,089	447,589	447,589	447,589	442,589	2,225,445	14%
Capacity Development	94,910	102,410	102,410	102,410	97,410	499,552	3%
Knowledge & Research (PMEL)	172,638	146,988	138,888	136,188	160,488	755,188	5%
Sub Total	1,001,209	990,559	982,459	979,759	994,059	4,948,047	30%
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TOTAL	3,398,314	3,372,563	3,236,563	3,160,163	3,183,663	16,351,267	100%
Annual envelope	3,270,500	3,270,500	3,270,500	3,270,500	3,270,500	16,352,500	
Frontloading requirements	-127,814	-102,063	33,937	110,337	86,837	1,233	

Annex 1 Consortium partners

The consortium lead is IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre (IRC). The consortium partners are Simavi, Wetlands International and Akvo. This strategic partnership builds on the Dutch WASH Alliance, in which all partners in this consortium cooperate. Tools developed by the partners and approaches to monitoring, will be used in this consortium.

IRC www.ircwash.org

IRC is a knowledge-focused NGO that aims to achieve structural poverty reduction and inclusive development by working with a worldwide network of partner organisations and cooperating with civil society organisations in low- and lower-middle-income countries. IRC's roots are in advocacy, lessons learning, knowledge management and capacity building. IRC's mission is to act as a knowledge broker, innovator and enabler of change within the sector, internationally and in selected focus countries and regions, working with communities, civil society organisations, governments, NGOs and businesses, so that services are extended to the poor and are better attuned to their needs while being more sustainable and equitable, better managed and governed. Influencing WASH policy development at international and national levels requires that IRC communicate innovation in transparent and accessible ways, build a network of partners supportive of change processes and strengthen sector capacity.

Simavi <u>www.simavi.ora</u>

Simavi realises structural improvement to the health conditions of people in marginalised communities in Africa and Asia since 1925. Simavi invests in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and in sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) because these basic services are vital for people to be able to lead a healthy life, build a better existence and find a way out of poverty. Therefore Simavi strives for a world in which basic health is accessible for all. Simavi aims to structurally improve the basic health of ten million people by 2020. Simavi works on this mission by collaborating closely with civil society organisations to build capacity and create structural, lasting change. Simavi's strategy states that "We support local communities to become more organised and ... involve local leaders, health workers, schools and other actors. To ensure any changes that are brought about will be structurally embedded, we work with a range of relevant stakeholders and closely involve civil society organisations, such as our local partners and international NGOs."

Akvo www.akvo.org

Akvo's advocacy work has since 2007 focused on designing and deploying at scale technology services that promote end-to-end transparency of development cooperation, to a degree that had not previously been considered in the delivery of development aid programmes. Technology services for partners focused on poverty reduction by a series of different interventions. In particular, Akvo has advocated ways for organisations to share information openly on the internet, with a particular emphasis on encouraging organisations to provide end-to-end transparency from the field level upwards, including providing detailed information on project plans and sustainability, and the posting of text, photo and video, updates. This advocacy has been delivered in the form of software services and training to a large number of organisations, all focused on poverty reduction, with much of this work being delivered alongside training incountry to the regional or local teams. Fixing poverty in the world and providing information technology governance tools in this context is too important to be dominated by proprietary software companies. Akvo has also advocated the full adoption of open source and open data standards in the international development community.

Wetlands International www.wetlands.org

Wetlands International works to safeguard and restore wetlands for people and nature. Its Strategic Intent for 2015 – 2025 lays out 5 main streams of work: healthy wetland nature, vibrant coasts and deltas, blue lifelines in the desert (focusing on the Sahel), replenished water stores from mountains to sea, and peatland treasures. Many of the world's poorest communities live near wetlands and are highly dependent on the services and resources that wetlands provide such as fish, irrigation, water for household use and livestock, sanitation and transport. Together with a broad range of development partners and community based organisations, Wetlands International works towards sustainable natural resources management, in which communities play an active role in wetland management and wise use, while enhancing their income and well-being. One of Wetlands Internationals key intervention strategies is to *enable society* to *take action*, a.o. by working with civil society organisations and increasingly engaging in strategic partnerships. Wetlands International often develops specific thematic training modules on topics such as climate adaptation and the links between wetlands management and poverty reduction.

Table 5 Consortium partners' skills in lobbying and advocacy for improved governance of WASH

Idi	<u> </u>		cacy for improved governance	
	Simavi	IRC	Wetlands	Akvo
Local	Building capacities of CSOs in evidence-based advocacy and lobbying Strengthening CSO organisational capacities Advocating and building	Capacity building on sustainable WASH service delivery, in particular towards local government Advocating for and training in tools for local government to strengthen	Training local partners in advocacy and policy influencing Support for reaching agreements between local partners on planning for water supply	Strengthening organisational capacities in reporting by building partner capacity in Really Simple Reporting (RSR)
	capacity in community tools for empowerment and accountability (e.g., citizen report cards and budget tracking)	sustainable WASH services	Support for lobbying of CSOs on knowledge development and synthesis (e.g., on impact of large infrastructure on water and food security)	
National	Capacity assessments of local and national CSOs	Advocating for and building capacities in sector learning and knowledge management at national and local levels Advocacy and capacity building in innovative approaches for sustainable WASH towards governments	Maintaining and training partners in communities of practice and learning networks around resilience and water resources management Establishing and supporting existing networks of CSOs and support knowledge sharing, dialogue with other stakeholders	Building capacities of local and national partners in data collection and monitoring using Akvo FLOW
Netherland	Lobbying and advocacy on WASH towards Dutch government and parliament	Advisory services towards Dutch government on sustainable WASH	Advocacy towards Dutch sector for ecosystem and water resources perspective on water supply and sanitation	Advocacy and capacity building for open aid
International	Connecting local partners to national and international networks	Global knowledge sharing and advocacy through news services, publications and web portals Advocacy of innovative approaches for sustainable WASH towards donor organisations	Lobbying and advocacy for connecting WASH agenda to broader ecosystem and water resources policies	Maintaining global knowledge sharing platform Akvopedia Promoting open aid Maintaining database of 1,500 WASH projects Promoting transparency (tools) towards international and national stakeholders

